

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1187
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH FEBRUARY 2024**

ADULTERATION IN TURMERIC

1187: SHRI T.N. PRATHAPAN:

Will the **MINISTER of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any policy/ scheme/other measures to address elevated lead levels in blood among children in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Drugs and Food Quality Control (DFQC) division and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to screen for and prevent adulteration in turmeric in the country; and
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any studies to ascertain sources of lead contamination in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) provides technical and financial support to the States/UTs, based on the proposals received in the form of Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) under National Health Mission to strengthen the public healthcare system including setting up of laboratory services.

As informed, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC), Government of India has passed a notification in November 2016 as “**Regulation on Lead contents in Household and Decorative Paints Rules, 2016**” and has prohibited manufacture, trade, import as well as export of household and decorative paints containing lead or lead compounds in excess of 90 parts per million (ppm).

The Batteries (Management & Handling) Rules, 2001 was notified in May, 2001 to regulate the collection, characterization and recycling as well as import of used lead acid batteries in the country.

Under National Health Mission (NHM), for healthy survival of population especially for children, Information Education Communication (IEC)/ Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) activities are carried out.

(b): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the standards of Turmeric in the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011. According to Section 31(1) of Food Safety and Standard (FSS) Act, 2006, no person shall commence or carry on any Food Business except under a license and they are required to follow the standards laid down by FSSAI.

(c): FSSAI conducted Pan India Surveillance on spices to assess the safety, quality and labelling requirements of spices and to identify the hot spots of adulteration and contamination of spices in the Indian market. The survey was conducted in selected 249 locations across 35 States and Union Territories on 3rd & 4th March 2022. A total of 3582 samples were collected including 258 turmeric samples (Packed Product) and test for Lead Chromate was "Negative" in all of the 258 turmeric powder samples.
