

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2739  
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000  
ARTIFICIAL COLOUR IN FOOD ITEMS  
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

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

- (a) whether the Government had issued a notification banning use of artificial colour in food items by amending the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act in March, 1993;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to impose a ban on use of artificial colour in vegetables, pulses and other food items?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Notification amending the relevant provisions in the PFA Rules was published on 4.6.97 whereby number of artificial/synthetic colours permissible for use in food was reduced and was also restricted for use in certain foods and upto the limits prescribed in this regard.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) The use of artificial colours in vegetables and pulses is already prohibited under PFA Rules, 1955. In the case of other foods also, restriction exists as indicated at (a) and (b) above.