

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:722

ANSWERED ON:25.02.2009

PRESENCE OF DANGEROUS FATS CONTENT IN EDIBLE OIL

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

- (a) whether traces of trans fats were found in edible oil as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 4 February, 2009;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) Recent reports appearing in the press are based upon the report, titled "Fatty acid profile of edible oils and fats in India", brought out in January, 2009, by Centre for Science and Environment, regarding presence of transfatty acids in edible oil. Edible vegetable oils normally do not contain Transfatty acids (TFA) however TFAs are formed when vegetable oils are subjected to hydrogenation i.e. in production of vanaspati, margarine, etc.

The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 do not prescribe any limit of Trans Fatty Acids in oils and fats. However, through a Notification No. GSR664 (E) dated 19.9.2008 relating to food labeling under the PFA Rules, 1955, provisions have been made that in case any hydrogenated vegetable fat or bakery shortening is used in preparation of any food, the declaration that it contains trans fatty acid shall be given. Further in case of claim that the product is free from trans fatty acids then the amount of trans fatty acid shall not be more than 0.2 gm per serving.