

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:340

ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005

ADULTERATION IN CHILLI POWDER

Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati; Satpathy Shri Tathagata

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recent scare over discovery of a carcinogenic adulterant in a batch of chilli powder exported from India;
- (b) if so, whether the proliferation of adulterated and counterfeit products has become a major threat to consumer welfare in the country;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has written to the State Governments and other agencies including consumer organizations to highlight such cases;
- (d) if so, the reaction of these agencies to the said proposal alongwith the steps taken for its immediate implementation; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government to check the menace of adulteration and counterfeiting in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir.

(c) to (e): Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Commerce had written to all the Chief Secretaries in November, 2003, requesting them to issue instructions to the concerned State Government Authorities to initiate action under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act with the specific objective of preventing the use of SUDAN I by the food industry. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have also requested all State Governments and Administrations of Union Territories to keep a strict vigil on the quality of red chilies and to draw maximum samples at all sources under the said Act.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs have also written to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to take necessary action and to create consumer awareness with reference to the theme of "Crusade against Adulteration, Counterfeiting and Spurious Products" which was adopted by the Department on the occasion of World Consumer Rights Day on 15th March, 2005. Similarly, an appeal was made to all Ministries of Government of India, State Governments, Union Territory Administrations and voluntary consumer organizations to highlight the importance of consumer protection and welfare in general and to launch drives to make the consumer aware of the precautions to be taken in protecting himself against adulterated/contaminated food articles. Consumer awareness is also created through a campaign by the Department of Consumer Affairs, one of the themes being protection against adulteration. The response to these efforts have been positive.