

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7007

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010

BAN ON FOOD ITEMS

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

- (a) the mechanism set up by the Government to examine and test the quality of imported fruits and other food items in the country;
- (b) whether virus strain has been found in some fruits imported in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has proposed to ban certain food items including those imported from various countries for the non-compliance of food quality norms in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the number of such food items banned by the FSSAI during the last two years?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

(a) The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) under Ministry of Finance is entrusted with the examination and testing the quality of imported fruits and other food items before clearance and for action in respect of imported food items not conforming to standard under PFA Act, 1954. Under section 6 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954, the Customs Collectors are empowered for the clearance of consignments of imported foods. In addition, the import of agricultural commodities is regulated also through the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of import into India) Order, 2003 issued under the Destructive Insects & Pests Act, 1914, administered by the Ministry of Agriculture. Entry of exotic pests, diseases and weeds associated with imported plant and planting material is prevented by way of prohibition (deportation / destruction) or adoption phytosanitary measures at the point of entry.

(b) & (c) The Ministry of Agriculture has informed that no virus strain, as quarantine pest from phytosanitary point of view, has been detected during the recent past in imported fruits.

(d) to (f) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has not issued any order to ban any food product. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has, however, issued orders for prohibition of import of milk and milk products from China.