

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:86
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2010
ADULTERATION OF FOOD ITEMS
Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan;Patil Shri A.T. Nana

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

- (a) whether cases of adulteration of food items and usage of hazardous chemicals like calcium carbide for early ripening of fruits and vegetables have been reported from various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof;
- (c) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government to ascertain the ill-effects of such chemicals on human-health;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.86 FOR 30TH JULY, 2010

(a)&(b): Use of carbide gas (acetylene gas) for artificial ripening of fruits and vegetables is banned under Rule 44 AA of the PFA Rules. However, reports of use of such banned chemicals for early ripening of fruits and vegetables have been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh according to which during the period 28th June, 2010 to 24th July 2010, 35 FIRs have been filed relating to use of such banned chemicals for artificial ripening of fruits & colouring of vegetables. Information about cases of adulteration in food items as reported by the State / U.T. Governments are given in Annexure.

(c)&(d): Calcium Carbide is known to produce gases like Hydrogen Sulphide and Phosphine in small amounts which, if directly inhaled, can cause nausea, vomiting and headache.

(e): The Commissioners of Food Safety / Food (Health) Authorities of the State / UT Governments who are responsible for implementation of PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955 in their States / UTs have been advised to keep strict vigil to check the use of carbide gas and other hazardous chemicals for ripening of fruits and take legal action for violation of the provisions of the PFA Act / Rules. In this regard, the procedure for detection of carbide gas (acetylene gas) in godowns or treatment chambers for detection of artificial ripening of fruits has also been circulated to all the States/UTs.