

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5100  
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010  
CHEMICALS IN PACKED FOOD ITEMS  
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**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the norms laid down by the Government in respect of presence of chemicals and preservatives in packed food items being sold across the country;
- (b) whether excessive level of chemicals and preservatives have been detected in some packed food items in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken during the last three years and the current year;
- (d) whether the Government has set up any supervisory body for the proper monitoring of presence of chemicals in such items in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

- (a) The standards of various food articles including packed foods which include parameters for use of colours, preservatives, anti-oxidants, emulsifying and stabilizing and anti-caking agents, flavouring agents etc. and their labeling have been prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955.
- (b) & (c): The implementation of PFA Act and Rules is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. Samples of various food articles are taken regularly by the State/U.T Governments and action is taken from time to time, in case there is violation of PFA Act and Rules. The details of cases of excessive level of chemicals and preservatives in packed food items are not maintained centrally.
- (d) & (e) The Government has set up the Food Safety and Standards Authority to lay down science-based standards for articles of food.