

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3776  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2011  
FORMALIN IN FISH  
Das Shri Khagen

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the fish sold in the market in various parts of the country contains formalin-a highly toxic and carcinogenetic chemical used to prevent fish from deterioration which is a major threat to health on consumption;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to crack the illegal use of formalin and issued any directions to the State Governments to punish the offenders; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a)to(d): Formalin, commonly known as Formaldehyde is used as disinfectant, in the manufacture of Resins and various organic synthesis reactions and other industrial applications. Its manufacture and uses carry no restrictions.

There is no provision under the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011 for use of formalin to preserve fish. The implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act/ Rules / Regulations rests with State /U.T. Governments. The Commissioners, Food Safety are requested from time to time to keep a strict vigil to conduct and regular checks on food articles for daily use and take legal action in case of violation of the provisionjof the FSS Act, 2006 and its Regulations.