

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:90
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2012
ARTIFICIAL RIPENING OF FRUITS
Singh Rajkumari Ratna;Singh Shri Ijyaraj

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain farmers in the country are using some chemicals for artificial ripening of fruits and vegetables or giving it fresh look which is a cause of concern for human health;
- (b) if so, the details of such chemicals;
- (c) whether these chemicals are banned in other countries;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ban the use of these chemicals?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 90 DUE FOR REPLY ON 20TH MARCH, 2012.

(a) to (e): In India, some farmers use ethylene for ripening of fruits like banana and mango. As per rule 48-E of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955, there is also provision for coating fresh fruits with food additives, viz, bee wax, carnauba wax or shellac wax as glazing agents. Ethylene is a ripening hormone, which triggers maturity in fruits. In packhouses or commercial ripening chambers, world over, ethylene gas is used for ripening the fruits uniformly for enhancing market appeal and quality. This chemical acts in the gaseous state, which easily degrades in the atmosphere. Even under organic production system, where chemical fertilizers are not permitted, use of ethylene for ripening is allowed. It is universally recognized as safe and does not have detrimental effect on human health.

There is no reports in the country on use of chemicals which are banned in other countries for giving fresh look to fruits and vegetables. The use of calcium carbide for ripening of fruits, which is a cause of concern for human health, has been banned by Government of India under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rule 44 - AA of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.