

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2839

ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012

USE OF IODISED SALT

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram; Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether Government has reviewed its policy of compulsory universal salt iodisation programme as directed by the Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a large percentage of rural population still consumes uniodized salt;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ban the sale of non-iodized salt especially in the rural areas of the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a)&(b): Yes. As per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court, an Expert Committee under the chairmanship of Director General Health Services reviewed compulsory salt iodization policy for direct human consumption and recommended that compulsory salt iodization for direct human consumption be enforced under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006.

(c)&(d): As per Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES) Report-2009, 71.1% households are consuming adequately iodised salt.

(e) Government of India issued ban notification on the sale of non iodized salt for direct human consumption with effect from 17th May, 2006 under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 in the entire country. The earlier Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and Rules 1955 have been repealed and the new Food Safety and Standards Regulation, 2011 has been brought into effect from 5.8.2011 which intra- alia envisages banning of sale of non iodized salt for direct human consumption in the entire country.