

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2290
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012
CHEMICALS/PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD/BEVERAGE ITEMS
Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) the norms and standards laid down by the Government in respect of presence of chemicals and preservatives in food and beverage items being sold across the country;
- (b) whether excessive level of chemicals and preservatives have been detected in some food and beverage items in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed by the Government against the offenders during the last three years and the current year;State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed/studied the adverse health effects of these food/beverage items containing excessive level of chemicals and preservatives; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed by the Government to ensure compliance of standards relating to use of chemicals and preservatives in food/beverage items by their manufacturers?

Answer

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

- (a): The Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations , 2011 provide norms and standards for the chemicals and preservatives in food and beverage items.
 - (b) & (c) : As per information made available by States/UTs, a statement indicating number of cases registered/ challaned and number of cases of convictions for food adulteration during 2009, 2010 and 2011-12 is annexed.
 - (d) : Standards for various chemicals and preservatives are laid down based on review of all available safety and toxicological data by Joint Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/World Health Organization (WHO) Expert Committee on Food Additives. The maximum dietary level of an additive that is without any demonstrable toxic effect is determined, i.e. the 'no-observed-adverse-effect level' (NOAEL). Keeping an adequate safety margin, standards are laid specifying the maximum amount of a food additive that can be taken daily in the diet, over a lifetime, without health risk.
- If food/beverage items containing excessive levels of these chemicals and preservatives are consumed they are likely to have some harmful effects. For example consumption of excessive amounts of caffeine can lead to increase in blood pressure, tachycardia, anxiety, restlessness and tremors.
- (e): Food samples are drawn regularly by State/ U.T. Governments and action is taken against the offenders, in cases of where samples are found to be non confirming to the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011.