

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:436
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012
CONTAMINATED HONEY
Karwariya Shri Kapil Muni

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of certain studies regarding manufacturing and marketing of honey adulterated with antibiotics and other banned substances in the country;
- (b) if so, the details along with the facts in this regard;
- (c) the standards prescribed for honey and other similar articles along with the mandate given to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in this regard;
- (d) the names of the imported as well as domestic honey brands and other Similar food articles found containing high concentration of antibiotics and other banned substances during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) the reasons for giving permission for the sale of these adulterated honey brands in the country along with the corrective measures taken/proposed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (ABU HASEM KHAN CHOUDHURY)

- (a) & (b): A study conducted by an NGO in 2010 on antibiotic residues in honey, reported that honey samples contained antibiotics.
- (c): The standards of honey have been prescribed under Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011, wherein antibiotics are not allowed in honey.
- (d) : No such data is maintained centrally.
- (e) : Violation of provisions of food regulations attracts penal action. The State/UT. Governments have been advised to exercise strict vigil and take punitive action wherever samples are found adulterated due to antibiotics / contamination.