

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1288
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2013
USE OF BANNED CHEMICALS
Patle Kamla Devi ;Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of farmers are using certain chemicals which are banned in developed countries to ripen the fruits and vegetables artificially, which is injurious to health;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken by the Union Government to ban these chemicals?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARIQ ANWAR)

(a) & (b): There have been reports in media about the use of toxic substances like calcium carbide, oxytocin for early ripening of fruits and vegetables.

Clause 2.3.5 of Chapter 2 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on sale) Regulations, prohibits the sale of fruits which has been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas commonly known as carbide gas produced from Calcium Carbide.

However, use of ethylene gas in low concentration exogenously to trigger ripening of fruits is considered safe.

(c): Implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and its Rules / Regulations rest with State/UT Governments. The Commissioner Food Safety/Food (Health) Authority of States/UTs who are responsible for implementation of the said Act in their State/UTs have been requested to keep a strict vigil on use of carbide gas and other hazardous chemicals for ripening of fruits and take legal action for violation of the above provision of the Act/Rules. The State Governments have also been advised to educate the public through mass electronic media against consumption of such artificial ripened fruits.