

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:268

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2013

FOOD PRODUCTS CONTAINING TOXIC AND HARMFUL CHEMICALS

Singh Shri Ijyaraj ;Singh Shri Jagada Nand

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

- (a) whether the use of toxic and harmful chemicals in food products are becoming one of the causes of illness and deaths in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the legal provisions for prevention of preparing, manufacturing and sale of food products containing toxic and harmful chemicals; and
- (d) the stringent action proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons violating these provisions?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.268 FOR 15TH MARCH, 2013

(a)&(b): As per information made available by some States/UTs, such cases have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, details of which are annexed.

(c) Section 59 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, envisages punishment for dealing in unsafe food as under:-

Any person who, whether by himself or by any other person on his behalf, manufactures for sale or stores or sells or distributes or imports any article of food for human consumption which is unsafe, shall be punishable,-

(i) where such failure or contravention does not result in injury, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and also with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees;

(ii) where such failure or contravention results in a non-grievous injury, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year and also with fine which may extend to three lakh rupees;

(iii) where such failure or contravention results in a grievous injury, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six years and also with fine which may extend to five lakh rupees;

(iv) where such failure or contravention results in death, with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life and also with fine which shall not be less than ten lakh Rupees.

(d) Implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act and Rules/Regulations made thereunder, primarily rests with State/UT Governments. Regular surveillance, monitoring & sampling of food products are undertaken by State/UT Governments under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules & Regulations made thereunder to curb food adulteration. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issues advisories from time to time to State/UT Governments to check the adulteration in food products. FSSAI also conducts awareness workshops / training programmes on Food Safety, involving Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Public Health Department of State Government who have experience and presence in the field. A national Food Safety Helpline (1800 11 21 00) has also been started for having direct interface/ communication linkages with all the stakeholders in the food chain including the regulators, other government agencies, manufacturing associations, municipal bodies, NGOs, consumers, etc.