

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3162

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2013

JUNK FOOD

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

- (a) whether the Government has defined 'Junk Food' under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the World Health Organization (WHO) has urged all the Member Nations to ban the sale of junk food in schools/playgrounds and also ban misleading advertisements of food products which are high in saturated fats, sugar or salt;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the issue?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : Although the term "Junk Food" has not been defined under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules / Regulations made thereunder, foods which have high fat, salt and sugar, with little or no protein, minerals and vitamins are considered as "unhealthy foods" and belong to the category of fast foods.

As per Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011, every pre-packaged food is required to contain on the label, a list of ingredients in the descending order and nutrition information, calorie in Kcal, carbohydrate, protein and fat in gm/100 gm or ml/100 ml. Food in which hydrogenated vegetable fat or bakery shortening is used is required to declare on the label that hydrogenated vegetable fats or bakery shortening used contain trans-fat.

(c) & (d) : The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the nodal agency set-up for the purpose of laying down science-based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption, has not received any such recommendation from the World Health Organization (WHO).

(e) : This Ministry has requested the Chief Ministers and the Health Ministers of the all States/UTs and the Minister of Human Resources Development to consider issuing appropriate directions to the schools and colleges for withdrawing foods high in saturated fat and carbonated drinks from their canteens and promoting healthy food habits, and that children must be made aware of the benefits of consumption of fruits, vegetables and whole grains.