

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1641
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013
ADULTERATION IN BLACK PEPPER
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram ;Ramshankar Dr.

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

- (a) whether Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently found traces of mineral oil in thousands of tonnes of black pepper in the godowns of National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the said adulteration along with the amount of revenue loss suffered by the Government in this regard; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government either to destroy the contaminated pepper or reprocess it to make it fit for human consumption?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Mineral oil was detected in various lots of black pepper in the custody of National Commodity Derivatives Exchange Ltd. (NCDEL) by the officials of the Food Safety Commissioner, Kerala. As reported by the Food Safety Commissioner, Kerala, the pepper lots with NCDEL were analysed at the Quality Evaluation Laboratory of Spices Board, Cochin. Of the 800 lots, the analysis results of 104 lots have come. 93 lots were found to be having mineral oil contamination. There is no revenue loss other than taxes on trading, since the lots are owned by private individuals and NCDEL.
- (c): The Commissioner of Food Safety, Kerala has issued an order dated 7/8/2013 directing district Food Safety Officer (FSO), Ernakulam, to destroy 93 mineral oil contaminated lots.