

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4391
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014
PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD AND BEVERAGE
Kamaraaj Dr. K.

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study/ survey to ascertain the impact of consumption of preservatives added in food and beverage items on humans;
- (b) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof;
- (c) the name of the preservatives permitted to be added in foods and beverages in the country and considered safe for human consumption;
- (d) the details of the existing laws/regulations in this regard along with the mechanisms put in place by the Govt. to check the levels of preservatives in food and beverage items; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure strict compliance of the laws/regulations laid down in this regard and also check the excessive use of preservatives in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a): No.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) to (d): Regulation 3.1.4 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives), Regulations, 2011 lays down the standards for preservatives and the names of preservatives to be added in foods and beverages along with the maximum permissible limits. As per this regulation, class I and class II preservatives are:-

Class I i) Common Salt,
ii) Sugar
iii) Dextrose
iv) Glucose Syrup
v) Spices
vi) Vinegar or acetic acid
vii) Honey
viii) Edible vegetable oils.
Class III) Benzoic acid including salts thereof
ii) Sulphurous acid including salts thereof
iii) Nitrates or Nitrites of Sodium or Potassium in respect of food like ham, pickled meat,
iv) Sorbic acid including its sodium, potassium and calcium salts, propionates of calcium or sodium, lactic acid, and acid calcium phosphate.
v) Nisin
vi) Sodium and calcium propionate.
vii) Methyl or propyl Parahydroxy-Benzoate.
viii) Propionic acid, including esters or salt thereof.
ix) Sodium diacetate
x) Sodium, potassium and

calcium salts of lactic acid.

(e): The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 primarily rests with State/UT Governments. Random samples of food items are drawn by the Food Safety Officers in the States and sent to the laboratories recognised by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for analysis. In cases, where the samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the Act and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder, recourse is taken to the penal provisions, as provided in the FSS Act, against the offenders.