

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:868

ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014

BAN ON JUNK FOOD IN SCHOOLS

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Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to ban unhealthy or junk food in school canteens across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the objective behind this move;
- (c) whether the Government has made any arrangement to provide good quality and safe food to the students in school canteens;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether her Ministry has discussed/ proposes to discuss the matter with other Ministries to provide quality food to children in schools; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) to (f): The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has advised schools to ensure that school canteens provide healthy snacks and that junk food, carbonated and aerated beverages are replaced with healthy snacks, juices and dairy products. Further, School Education being in the Concurrent List it is the responsibility of the concerned State Government to provide good quality and safe food to the students in the school canteens. An Expert Group was constituted on 16.09.2013 by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi to assist the Central Advisory Committee (CAC) of FSSAI to develop guidelines for making available quality and safe food in schools. The Expert Group has recommended the restriction/limitation of the availability of most common HFSS (High in Fat, Salt and Sugar) Foods in schools and area within 50 meters.