

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1989

ANSWERED ON:31.07.2015

Vegetable Fats in Chocolates

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

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- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of presence of high level of vegetable fat which is in excess of the global norms of 5% in many chocolate brands available in the market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent the manufacturing and sale of the chocolate containing high level of vegetable fats in the country?

Answer

(a) & (b): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has informed that there are a number of brands in the market, which do not declare the article of food as 'Chocolate' and mention the same as 'Chocolate Compound' on the label. As seen from the information contained on the labels, a number of these variants contain high level of vegetable fat.

(c): Standards for Chocolates have been prescribed under sub-regulation 2.7.4 of the FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, which specifically prohibit any vegetable fat other than cocoa butter in chocolates, even though Codex permits vegetable fat up to 5%.

The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 primarily rests with the State/UT Governments. Random sampling and testing of food products is done by the Officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/ UTs to check compliance of the standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder. In cases, where food samples are found to be non-compliant, action is taken as per the provision of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.