

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1878
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2014
BAN ON USE OF ARECANUT
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that use of Arecanut is injurious to health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any scientific study in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to ban the use of Arecanut in the country and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare directed the National Institute of Public Health to undertake a study on constituents of panmasala, gutkha and similar articles and constituted a Committee of Technical Experts in compliance with the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 7th December, 2012. Based on the review of scientific literature and results from the multiple studies the Committee concluded that there is a strong and consistent evidence of arecanut being a significant risk factor for development of cancers of oral cavity, oesophagus and liver. Further, the risk of these cancers is found to increase with increased duration and frequency of arecanut usage. Consistent evidence has also been found for a significant association between arecanut usage and peri-odontal disease, cardiovascular disease, metabolic abnormalities and adverse birth outcomes.

(e): At present there is no proposal to ban use of Arecanut in the country.