

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1064
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2014
USE OF AJINOMOTO IN FOODS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of use/presence of ajinomoto in certain food items being manufactured by chinese companies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the likely impact of ajinomoto on the health of people in the country;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the monitoring mechanism put in place by the Government to keep a check on the food items being imported into the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Government is aware of the reports about the presence of Ajinomoto (Mono Sodium Glutamate) in the food manufactured/imported from some countries. All food products imported from China and other countries are being checked for presence of Ajinomoto as per Regulation 3.1.11 of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Till date, no violation of the aforesaid Regulation has been noticed.

(c) & (d): No specific study on the subject has been carried out on these lines in India. Extensive studies carried out elsewhere indicate that there is no scientific basis for assuming it to be a health hazard. The Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives of World Health Organization/Food and Agriculture Organization, has after thorough safety evaluation indicated that it is safe and does not pose a health hazard.

(e): The FSSAI is operating food import clearance at five locations viz., Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Cochin. The imported consignments referred to FSSAI for clearance by the Customs Authorities are subjected to inspection and sampling. The samples so collected are subjected to testing as per parameters laid down in the various Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011 for safety aspects.