

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1489  
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2014  
USE OF CHEMICALS ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES  
Chavan Shri Harishchandra Deoram

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that harmful colours and chemicals are used on fruits and vegetables to make them look fresh and attractive;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b): To prevent use of harmful colours and chemicals on fruits and vegetables, provision has been made in the sub-regulation 2.3.6 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and restrictions on sales) Regulations – 2011 by which 'The Fresh Fruits and Vegetables shall be free from rotting and free from coating of waxes, mineral oil and colours. Provided that fresh fruits may be coated with bees wax (white and yellow ) or carnauba wax or shellac wax at level not exceeding Good Manufacturing Practices under proper label declaration as provided in Regulation 2.4.5 (44) of Food Safety Standards (Packaging and Labelling) regulations, 2011'.

(c): Violation of conditions laid out under the said Regulations, attract penal action under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Enforcement of the provisions of the Act and Regulations, is primarily the responsibility of States/ UTs.