

Title: Need to ensure mandatory display of labels on all Vanilla products as per Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955 in order to ensure identification of natural Vanilla based products from those of synthetic ones – Laid.

SHRI P.T. THOMAS (IDUKKI): Today Vanilla farmers are facing a grave situation as they are not able to sell their produce. The current price of green vanilla beans is Rs. 40/ per Kg while it was Rs. 3500/- per kg in 2003. The main reason for the price fall is the use of synthetic substitutes like Vanillin, Ethyl Vanillin and Propenyl Guathol. Synthetic Vanillin is an artificial product made from guaiacum, a coal tar derivative or lignin, a waste product of paper industry through a chemical process. In our country 99% of the food industry now are using the synthetic substitute and label it as vanilla which is a violation of Rule 40 under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955. About 2 lakh vanilla farmers are struggling due to this and thinking of giving up farming of Vanilla in the States of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. So, I request an immediate intervention of the Central Government to implement mandatory labelling rule as per Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1955 to identify natural vanilla products from synthetic substitutes.