

[Translation]

**Use of Artificial Colours in Food Stuff**

1532. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether manufacturers of various food products use artificial colours in their products and in soft drinks;

(b) if so, whether some norms have been laid down in this regard;

(c) the details of the penal provisions for the violation thereof;

(d) whether some of these artificial colours, such as, Ponceau and carmine are very harmful and whether Government propose to ban these colours as has been done in many other countries; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) and (b) and (d) and (e). At present 11 synthetic colours (artificial) are permitted to be used in specific food items upto a specified limit including soft drinks as per provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. Out of these, this Ministry, on the advice of the experts has decided to ban three synthetic colours namely, Amaranth, Fast Red E and Green S.

(c) Sale of adulterated food articles due to presence of non-permitted colour or excessive use of permitted colour, is punishable with imprisonment for a term not less than six months which may extend to three years and with fine which shall not be less than one thousand rupees.

[English]

**Production and Marketing of Herbal Medicines**

1533. SHRI P.R. KUMAR MANGALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a boom in the pharmaceutical market especially of products selling in the names of herbal medicines;

(b) whether these products are exempted from excise duty;

(c) whether Government proposes to regulate the production and marketing of these products; and

(d) whether quality control laboratories exist for testing these products and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY): (a) This Ministry is not aware of any boom in pharmaceutical market for herbal medicines in Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani drugs.

(b) Yes, Sir. Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Medicines are exempted from payment of Central Excise duty.

(c) Production of Ayurvedic, Siddha & Unani Medicines are already regulated by the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

(d) The Central Government have established Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine at Ghaziabad and a few State Governments have also appointed Government analysts for the purpose in different Laboratories/Institutions.