

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2357
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2016**

ILL EFFECTS OF SUGAR-MIXED SOFT DRINKS ON DENTAL HEALTH

2357. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn towards a report of AIIMS Dental Research Centre citing therein that owing to growing use of sugar-mixed soft drinks and junk food, dental problems are rising in India with 80 to 90 per cent population of the Country suffering from Gingivitis, a gum related disease and 60 per cent of this population are victims of medium level Gingivitis;

(b) whether it is a fact that 10 thousand deaths are caused by sugar-mixed drinks in the Country; and

(c) if so, steps being taken by Government to prevent it, if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a): Recently an “International Symposium-Is Sugar the New Tobacco?” was organized by Centre for Dental Education & Research, (CDER) AIIMS, New Delhi on 11th November, 2016. It has been reported by CDER, AIIMS, New Delhi that according to available evidences, rising sugar mixed soft drinks(sugar sweetened beverages) and junk food is a major risk factor for increasing dental caries. Further, according to various studies, it is estimated that 80-90% adult population is suffering from mild gingivitis.

(b): There is no specific study supported by this Ministry which brought out that 10 thousand deaths are caused by sugar-mixed drinks in the country.

(c): The Government of India has launched National Oral Health Programme (NOHP) to strengthen the oral health care delivery in the existing public health facilities of the country. The Government of India has adopted a three pronged approach for promotive, preventive and curative approach to tackle the rising burden of oral diseases. The Government of India is also implementing National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardio-vascular diseases and Stroke(NPCDCS) aiming at health promotion [of healthy living including avoidance of sugar, excessive salt, alcohol, increasing physical activity etc], early screening and proper and timely management.

As per the provision of Regulation 2.10.6 [1(1)] of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 relating to Beverages Non-Alcoholic-Carbonated, the quantity of added sugar shall be declared on the container/bottle and if no sugar is added that also shall be declared on the container/bottle as laid down in labelling Regulations 2.4.5 (24,25,26,28 and 29) of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011.