

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1401  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2017**

**USE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS IN PRODUCTS USED IN DAILY LIFE**

**1401. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:**

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

- (a) whether attention of Government has been drawn on the scientific studies conducted to conclude that causes for cancer are somehow also connected to use of certain chemicals in insecticides, fungicides, additives to plastic, PVC and polycarbonate products like food containers and water bottles, biocides used in hand washes, cosmetics, etc.; and
- (b) if so, the steps Government has taken to conduct further research in this direction and make recommendation to restrict use of hazardous chemicals in manufacture of goods directly connected to human life in India?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a): Yes.

(b): The National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), an Institute of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has undertaken several studies on the detection of chemical and pesticide residue.

In order to restrict use of hazardous chemicals, the steps as follows have been undertaken:

- I) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that it has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 wherein limits of insecticides, fungicides and other harmful substances in food commodities are prescribed.
- II) The Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 prescribe the limit of additives permitted in food products. The use of potassium bromate, a 2B category possible human Carcinogen is no longer a permitted additive.
- III) Ink used in Newspaper print contains, inter alia, multiple bioactive materials is known to have negative health effects including risk of acquiring cancer related health complications. The FSSAI has issued an advisory dated 06.12.2016 on restriction of the use of newspaper as food packaging material. The State/Union Territory Food Safety Commissioners have been requested to initiate systematic campaigns to discourage the use of newspapers for packing, serving and storing of food items.