

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2178
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST JANUARY, 2019**

TESTING OF MILK FOR TUBERCULOSIS BACILLI

2178. DR. C. P. THAKUR:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state whether Government intends to pass orders for supply of only tuberculosis tested and pasteurised milk in the market as is done in foreign countries?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

Presently, no such proposal is under consideration. However, as per the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, several types of milks (full cream milk, standardised milk, toned milk, double toned milk and skimmed milk) are already mandatorily required to undergo heat treatments (pasteurization, sterilization, ultra-high temperature sterilization/treatment or boiling). Further, pasteurization temperatures are established to ensure effective destruction of all pathogenic bacteria, including *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, in milk and to also serve to give a negative 'Phosphatase test' in the pasteurized milk. However, on account of the high bio security concerns and complexity in testing of *M. tuberculosis* in milk samples inside milk processing laboratories, 'Phosphatase Test' is used as an indicative test to establish effectiveness of the pasteurization treatment and thereby destruction of all pathogenic organisms, including *M. tuberculosis* in pasteurized milk samples.

In addition, labels of pre-packaged milk that has been subjected to a specified heat treatment are required to have declaration of the respective heat treatment for information of consumers/ regulators.

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