

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3155
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th MARCH, 2023**

ARTIFICIAL WAX COATING ON FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

3155. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

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

- (a) whether artificial wax coating is applied on fruits and vegetables;
- (b) if so, whether the coating material is FSSAI approved and fit for consumption;
- (c) the details of the wax which is applied for coating fruits and vegetables;
- (d) the number of complaints reported against consumption of non-permitted wax on fruits and vegetables;
- (e) whether Government has taken cognizance of this fact that affects the health of consumers; and
- (f) if so, the details of steps taken to reduce this health hazard?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has informed that as per Food Safety And Standards (Prohibition And Restrictions On Sales) Regulations, 2011 Fresh Fruits and Vegetables shall be free from rotting and free from coating of waxes, mineral oil and colours. Provided that fresh fruits may be coated with bees wax (white and yellow) or carnauba wax or shellac wax at level not exceeding Good Manufacturing Practices under proper label declaration as provided in Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020.

(d) to (f) The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act 2006, Rules and Regulations primarily lies with the State/UT Governments. The complaints /concerns of consumers are received by FSSAI through grievance portal on Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS), Integrated Grievance Redressal Mechanism (INGRAM) and Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAM). Consumer grievance/complaints (including complaints regarding artificial wax coating on fruits and vegetables) received for the last three years has been placed below:

Period (F.Y.)	No. of Grievances received		
	FoSCoS Portal	INGRAM	CPGRAMS
2020-21	849	2893	656
2021-22	3875	4598	693
2022-23 (till 28.02.2023)	3894	5885	937

The received grievances/complaints are assigned to Food Safety Officer (FSO) /Designated Officer (DO) of the concerned State/ UT for the resolution and necessary action. The report of the action taken is uploaded on the Portal by the concerned DO. The proper disposal of grievances is monitored and reviewed with Commissioners of Food Safety, States/UTs through Quarterly Reports, performance review of States/UTs and periodical Central Advisory Committee Meetings.

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