

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2141  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023**

**GUIDELINES AND THRESHOLDS FOR USAGE OF ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS**

**2141. SHRI JAGGESH:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Aspartame, an artificial-sweeteners could be declared by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as a possible cancer risk to humans and its cascading impact on the consumption of low-sugar and diet beverages and foods;
- (b) whether Government will follow what the international agency says or will define guidelines and thresholds of usage of artificial sweeteners based on its own risk assessment studies in consultations with all stakeholders; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the time frame for setting its own standards on artificial sweeteners?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE**

**(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that assessments of the health impacts of the non-sugar sweetener aspartame conducted by International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) as well as World Health Organization - Food and Agriculture Organization (WHO-FAO) Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) cite “limited evidence” for carcinogenicity in humans. However, IARC has classified aspartame as “possibly carcinogenic” to humans (IARC Group 2B) and JECFA accordingly has reaffirmed that the acceptable daily intake should be 40 mg/kg body weight.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has already laid down the standards for various artificial sweeteners in the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011. These standards for non-caloric sweeteners and limits for use of such non-caloric sweeteners in various food products have been laid down on the basis of risk assessment and Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) established by Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and the limits are in harmonization with Codex Alimentarius Commission.

\*\*\*\*\*