

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 277  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21<sup>st</sup> JULY, 2026**

**USE OF FOOD ITEMS BANNED IN OTHER COUNTRIES**

**277. DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are many food items which are banned or restricted in many other countries due to hazardous additives, artificial dyes and growth hormones like potassium bromate, azodicarbonamide, BVO and certain red/yellow dyes due to serious health and safety concerns and links to cancer, heart disease, allergies or toxic contamination but these items are used freely in the country; and
- (b) if so, whether Government has made any assessment of identifying and banning such items in the country, if so, the details thereof with complete list of such items and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) and (b): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is mandated to lay down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. The implementation and enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments.

FSSAI frames standards of food articles based on principle of risk assessment. The substances permitted and prohibited for use under the Food Safety and Standards Regulations (FSSR) are specified based on the scientific recommendations of the independent risk assessment bodies, namely the Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee, while taking into account country-specific requirements. These regulations are harmonised with internationally accepted Codex standards.

As per Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, Azodicarbonamide is permitted as flour bleaching agent and dough conditioner up to a maximum of 45 mg/kg of flour. Potassium bromate and Brominated Vegetable Oil (BVO) are not permitted for use in food products as per FSSR.

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