

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1795
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH NOVEMBER, 2016**

FOOD SAFETY

1795. SHRI GODSE HEMANT TUKARAM:

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that various chemicals, bacteria, viruses, etc. are found in food items, if so, what are the steps taken to regulate toxic contaminants in various food items including the packaged commodities;

(b) whether there is any mechanism such as monitoring committees at various levels to ensure food safety by implementing the regulations of the Food safety and Standards Authority of India, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has permitted addition of Potassium Bromate and Iodide in food items like bread etc., if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is aware that WHO has banned the above ingredients and many countries have followed the ban due to health implications; and

(e) whether the Government is aware that as per the study by the Centre for Science and Environment above ingredients are more than the prescribed limits in bakery products like bread, pav, bun, etc., if so, what action has the Government taken against the manufacturers of such bakery products etc.?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a): The Government is aware that various hazardous objects such as chemicals, bacteria, viruses, etc. are found in food items. The standards specifying the limits for toxic contaminants in different types of foods are provided under the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011.

(b): The enforcement of provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder is primarily the responsibility of the State/UT Governments. The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 provides for a detailed administrative set up at State/UT level for carrying out enforcement activities. These include posts of Food Safety Commissioners, Designated Officers, Adjudicating officers, Food Safety Officers, Food Analysts, etc. All States/UTs have taken steps to put in place the requisite Administrative set up.

(c): Potassium bromate was earlier permitted to be used as an additive for manufacturing bread and other bakery products under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. It has since been banned under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011.

(d): Yes.

(e): The Government is aware of the study carried out by the Centre for Science and Environment. As indicated in reply to part (c) above, use of Potassium Bromate as an additive has been banned.