

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4368
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2017**

STAPLER PINS IN TEA BAGS

4368. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to ban the use of stapler pins in tea bags considering its health hazards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons behind such a decision;
- (d) whether health hazards have been reported in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has issued a direction on 18th July, 2017 asking the Food Business Operators to discontinue the manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of stapled tea bags by 1st January, 2018.

(c) to (e): While no specific instance of health hazard due to stapler pins in tea bags has been reported, use of staple pins in tea bags poses potential risk to consumers as any loose staple pin consumed inadvertently with tea may cause serious problems.