

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2857  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST, 2018**

**ARTIFICIAL RIPENING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

**2857. SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of chemicals which are banned in developed countries are currently being used to ripen the fruits and vegetables artificially, which is injurious to health;
- (b) if so, the facts and details thereof; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to ban such chemicals?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c): Under sub-regulation 2.3.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011, use of acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas, in artificial ripening of fruits is prohibited. However, the said sub-regulation permits the ripening of fruits by using ethylene gas at a concentration upto 100 ppm (100µ/L) depending upon the crop, variety and maturity. It may be mentioned that ethylene is a hormone which is produced in the fruits naturally to facilitate its ripening in a natural way.

If any instance is reported about use of banned carbide gas for ripening, the matter is taken up with Food Safety Commissioners of States/UTs for taking strict action as enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder primarily rests with the State /UT Governments.

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