

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2892
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH DECEMBER, 2018**

ARTIFICIAL RIPENING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

**2892. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:**

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

- (a) the number of cases of adulteration and usage of chemical compounds to artificially ripen fruits and vegetables which has come up during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether such adulteration and usage of chemical compounds adversely affect the health of the people and causes kidney, liver and heart diseases and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the details of campaigns launched by the Government in this regard?

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

(a): Artificial ripening of fruits by using acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas, is prohibited under sub-regulation 2.3.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction to Sales) Regulations, 2016. However, under proviso to said sub-regulation, ripening of fruits is allowed using ethylene gas at a concentration upto 100 ppm. As per the information received from States/UT Governments, the details of samples of fresh fruits and vegetables, analysed, found non- conforming and action taken during the last two years is at Annexure-I and Annexure-II. For the year 2015-16, consolidated data relating to all food products only is available, which is at Annexure-III.

(b): Calcium carbide used by unscrupulous traders to release acetylene gas for artificial ripening of fruits contains traces of arsenic and phosphorus which is harmful for humans and may cause dizziness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting, skin ulcer, etc. The use of this chemical for ripening of fruits is banned in India.

(c) & (d): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has developed a Guidance Note No.04/2018 on "ARTIFICIAL RIPENING OF FRUITS – Ethylene gas- A safe fruit ripener" and shared through its website i.e. www.fssai.gov.in and social media handles. The purpose of this guidance note is to create awareness related to different aspects of artificial ripening of fruits among food business operators/traders, consumers and food safety officials. A social media campaign around artificial ripening of fruits was also run by FSSAI. The campaign focused on spreading information about prohibition on use of calcium carbide; tips for consumers and vendors; role of food safety officials etc. In association with the Department of Consumer Affairs, Govt. of India under a joint campaign under the aegis of "Jago Grahak Jago", an advertisement on artificially ripened fruits was published in newspapers PAN India.

Annexure-I

Testing report data for Fresh Fruits & Vegetable(1st April 2016- 31st Mar 2017)							
State	No. of Samples Analyzed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	No. of Cases Launched		No. of Convictions / Penalties		
			Criminal	Civil	Convictions	Penalties/ No.	Penalties amount
Arunachal Pradesh	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	24	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goa	89	2	-	-	-	-	-
Haryana	52	3		1	-	-	-
Kerala	49	2	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maharashtra	159	31	24	0	0	0	0
Puducherry	5	1	-	-	-	-	-
Punjab	38	9	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	16	8	3	4	4	5	46000
Telangana	255	130	68	-	-	-	-
Uttar Pradesh	39	7	0	0	0	2	160000
Total	767	193	95	5	4	7	206000

Source: States/UTs;

Annexure-II

Testing report data for Fresh Fruits & Vegetable(1st April 2017- 31st Mar 2018)							
State	No. of Samples Analyzed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	No. of Cases Launched		No. of Convictions / Penalties		
			Criminal	Civil	Convictions	Penalties/ No.	Penalties amount
Andhra Pradesh	463	114	67	03	16	06	79500
Bihar	21	01	01	-	-	-	-
Chandigarh	22	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chhattisgarh	04	02	-	-	-	-	-
Goa	91	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	78	07	01	01	0	0	0
Haryana	24	-	-	02		02	8000
Karnataka	08	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kerala	148	07	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	02	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maharashtra	119	08	03	01	0	0	0
Manipur	10	1	-	-	-	-	-
Odisha	16	02	0	0	0	0	0
Punjab	243	14	0	01	0	01	12000
Rajasthan	11	02	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	36	18	1	-	-	-	-
Tripura	03	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	49	22	01	03	01	03	24000
Total	1348	199	74	11	17	12	123500

Source: States/UTs

Annexure-III

Statement regarding number of samples of food products examined, found non-confirming and prosecution launched during 1st April 2015 to 31st March, 2016

Year	No. of samples analysed	No. of samples found non-confirming	No. of Civil/ Criminal cases Launched	Convictions	No. of cases in which Penalties imposed / Amount raised
2015-16	72499	16133	9979	540	3669/Rs.21,65,98,989

Source: States/UTs