

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 958
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08TH FEBRUARY, 2019**

ARTIFICIAL RIPENING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

958. SHRI RAHUL KASWAN:

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

- (a) whether some chemicals which are banned in the developed countries and are harmful for human health are being used to artificially ripen the fruits and vegetables in our country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to ban the use of such chemicals?

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

(a) to (c): 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, 2011 due to potential health hazards. However, under the said sub-regulation, ripening of fruits using ethylene gas at a concentration upto 100 ppm depending upon crop, variety and maturity is permitted. It may be noted that ethylene is a hormone naturally produced within the fruits which facilitates ripening.

Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) is receiving complaints regarding artificial ripening of fruits using banned chemical carbide by some unscrupulous Food Business Operators. All such complaints are forwarded to the concerned Food Safety Commissioner of the State/UT for strict action as enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder primarily rests with the States/UTs.

States/UTs also undertake regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products including fruits and vegetables, to check compliance of the prescribed standards and if the food samples are found non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions specified under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

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