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

LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1455  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28TH JULY, 2023  

WHO REPORT ON ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS  

1455. SHRI SANJAY SADASHIVRAO MANDLIK:  
SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:  
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:  
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:  
SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAIJIRAO MANE:  
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:  

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

(a) whether World Health Organization (WHO) has published a report expressing concern regarding usage of artificial sweeteners in the country and if so, the details thereof;  
(b) whether Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the regulatory body responsible for ensuring food safety and standards in the country has taken cognizance of said report and if so, the details thereof;  
(c) whether FSSAI has convened/proposes to convene a meeting to shed light on the potential consequences of artificial sweeteners on human health and if so, the details thereof;  
(d) whether FSSAI has asked for suggestions from various stakeholders, including industry experts, representatives and consumer advocates on WHO’s report;  
(e) if so, the details thereof including their responses and if not, the reasons therefor; and  
(f) the others steps taken by FSSAI to reduce the adverse impact of artificial sweeteners on the health of people in the country?  

ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)  

(a) & (b) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that World Health Organization (WHO) has released a new guideline on Non-Sugar Sweeteners (NSS), which recommends against the use of NSS to control body weight or reduce the risk of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). FSSAI has taken cognizance of said report and based on available scientific evidence, the matter has been deliberated in the meetings of the Scientific Panel of FSSAI.  

(c) to (e) FSSAI has conducted meetings of the Scientific Panel to discuss various aspects
related to use of artificial sweeteners and their effect on human health by involving external experts having domain knowledge.

(f) FSSAI has laid down standards for non-caloric sweeteners such as stevia, acesulfame potassium, aspartame, sodium and calcium saccharin, sacralose and sorbitol and limits for use of such NSS in various food products have been laid down on the basis of risk assessment and ADI (Acceptable Daily Intake) established by JECFA (Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives) and is in harmonization with Codex.

*******