

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4380
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH MARCH, 2020**

PAN MASALA AS MOUTH FRESHENER

4380. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

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

- (a) whether according to FSSAI pan masala can be used as the mouth freshener, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether pan masala and gutka are separate things as gutka is a tobacco based article while pan masala is made of clove, cardamom and areca nut, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has noted that people are being misled by calling pan masala and gutka as one thing, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether there is any proposal to regulate the pan masala and gutka industries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (c): The standards of pan masala are prescribed under sub-regulation 2.11.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. No standards of gutka are prescribed under these regulations.

Use of tobacco and nicotine as ingredients in any food product, which includes pan masala also, is prohibited under regulation 2.3.4 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011.

(d) & (e): Any manufacturer of pan masala is required to comply with the requirements specified under sub-regulation 2.11.5 of Food Safety & Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Further, as per provisions of sub-regulation 2.4.5(3) of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011, every package of pan masala and advertisement relating thereto is required to carry the following warning, namely- '*Chewing of Pan Masala is injurious to health*'

Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Order dated 23rd September, 2016 had given directions for banning the sale of gutka and pan masala containing tobacco or nicotine. States/UTs were accordingly advised to comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.