

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS & PETROCHEMICALS**

**LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION No. 1794
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.02.2022**

Chemically Treated Fruits

1794. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government is aware that most of the fruits that reach the consumers are thoroughly chemically treated which is extremely harmful for the human health and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the efforts made by the Government to ascertain the stages such as farmers/producers, middleman or retailers at which fruits are infested with chemicals;
- (c) whether the Government has made any efforts to educate them for judicious use of chemicals in fruits or has any plans to bring some deterrent laws to check such practices; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
(Dr. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) The reports about treating of fruits with non-permitted chemicals have been published in the media. The implementation and enforcement of provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act) and Rules and Regulations made thereunder primarily lies with State/UT Governments. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and sampling of food products ,including fruits, are being carried out by food safety enforcement machinery of States/UTs and action as per penal provisions of FSS Act is taken against the defaulting Food Business Operators (FBOs).

FSSAI, has advised the Commissioners of Food Safety of States/UTs, from time to time, to carry out targeted enforcement and surveillance drives to check use of chemicals in fruits.

Separate data/details regarding cases of chemically treated fruits detected by the food safety authorities in States are not available. However, as per information received from them, details of food samples, including fruits, analysed, found adulterated/sub-standard/contaminated with chemicals/ misbranded and action taken thereon during the last two years i.e. 2019-20 and 2020-21 is at Annexure.

(b) to (d) As per sub-regulation 2.3.6 of Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants , Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011, fresh fruits and vegetables shall be free from rotting and free from coating of waxes, mineral oil and colours. The regulations, however, allow that fresh fruits may be coated with bees wax (white and yellow) or carnauba wax or shellac wax at levels not exceeding Good Manufacturing Practices under proper label declaration.

Further, under regulation 2.3.5. of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 use of acetylene gas, commonly known as Carbide gas in artificial ripening of fruits has been prohibited. As an alternative, ripening of fruits by using ethylene gas at a concentration upto 100 ppm depending upon the crop, variety and maturity is permitted. Ethylene is a safer alternative. Provisions of FSS Act do not apply to any farmer or fisherman or farming operations or crops or livestock or aquaculture, and supplies used or produced in farming or products of crops produced by a farmer at farm level or a fisherman in his operations.”

However, in order to support primary food producers FSSAI has developed Codes of Practice aligned to the Codex Practices. These include Code of Hygienic Practice for fresh fruits and vegetables and Code of Practice for Packaging and Transport of fresh fruit and vegetables.

FSSAI has also developed a guidance document on Clean and Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Market and shared it with States/UTs for adoption and implementation to ensure the fruits and vegetables sold in the vegetable markets are sold in hygienic manner and are free from chemicals. A guidance note on artificial ripening of fruits has also been published.

Codes of Practices and Guidance Documents are uploaded on the website of FSSAI for general information of food business operators/traders, consumers and other stakeholders and their contents are also disseminated through social media.

Annexure

Details of Food Samples Analysed, Found Non-Conforming and Action Taken during 2019-20 and 2020-21

Year	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	Civil Cases				Criminal Cases			
			No. of Cases launched	No. of Cases decided	No. of Convictions	Penalties Raised (Rs.)	No. of Cases Launched	No. of Cases decided	No. of Convictions	Penalties Raised (Rs.)
2019-20	118775	29589	27412	18192	17345	563850454	4681	828	780	16107305
2020-21	107829	28347	24195	15878	14817	499223333	3869	520	506	8323601