

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3000
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9TH AUGUST, 2024**

LABELLING OF GLUTEN-FREE PRODUCTS

3000. SHRI S JAGATHRATCHAKAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government is cognizant that accurate labelling of gluten-free products is crucial to managing celiac disease and ensuring the wellbeing of the patients as even traces of gluten in foodstuffs can trigger adverse reactions in them;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the initiatives that are proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) advocate greater transparency and adherence to regulatory standards in gluten-free labelling in the country?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (c): The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Guidelines on Diagnosis and Management of Celiac Disease in India, 2016 emphasize on avoidance of gluten in diet for management of celiac disease. The guideline recommends caregivers of Celiac Disease patients to buy foods that are labelled as gluten-free as unlabelled foods may be contaminated with wheat.

To ensure the accurate labelling of gluten free products, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020. These regulations prescribes that the term "Gluten Free" shall be printed in the immediate proximity of the name of the product in the case of products

described in regulation 2.14 ('Gluten Free Food') of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Further, in case any gluten free product is manufactured in a plant where gluten containing products are also manufactured this shall be declared on the label as "Processed in a plant where gluten containing products are manufactured".

All food articles have to conform to the prescribed quality and safety standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules & Regulations including Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020.

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