

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 274
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH DECEMBER, 2024**

ADDED SUGAR IN BABY FOOD

***274. SMT. KANIMOZHI KARUNANIDHI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the recent report by a Swiss NGO alleging that Cerelac, a wheat-based baby product of Nestle which is sold in India for six-month-old babies contains 2.7 grams of added sugar per serving whereas the same product in the UK and Germany is sold without added sugar and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the stand of Government on this matter given that World Health Organisation (WHO) advises against introducing added sugar before the age of two to prevent risks like obesity and chronic diseases;
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to regulate added sugar levels in baby food products available in the country;
- (d) whether the Government has any plans to frame guidelines or establish standards for added sugar in baby foods to align with global health recommendations; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 274 FOR 13TH DECEMBER, 2024**

(a) to (e) The Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020 prescribes the standards for different categories of Infant food and formulae. The limits specified for sugars in infant food products in the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020 is at par with the global standards namely Codex Alimentarius Commission, which takes into account the recommendation of World Health Organization (WHO) while setting food standards.

On the basis of media report, suo moto cognizance was taken by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) about a report by the Swiss NGO regarding added sugar in wheat based baby product. Inspections were conducted on 29.04.2024 and 30.04.2024, at manufacturing sites engaged in production of the said Infant Food Product in the country. Based on scrutiny of the product, added sugar per serving was found to be in compliance with the provisions under Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020.
