

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.718
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th NOVEMBER, 2024**

BAN ON USE OF PESTICIDE IN SPICES

718. SHRI IMRAN MASOOD:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the ban imposed by the countries like Singapore and Hong Kong on sale of many Indian Spice brands due to suspected presence of carcinogens;
- (b) if so, the response of the Government on banning the spices that use suspected carcinogenic pesticides; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to address these challenges and to ensure safety and quality of Indian packaged food items for sale in domestic market and export?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (c): Ministry of Commerce has informed that Indian Spices have not been banned by countries like Singapore and Hong Kong. However, earlier, specific batches of few spice mixtures exported from India were recalled by Food Safety Authorities in Hong Kong and Singapore due to the presence of ethylene oxide (EtO) above permissible limits.

Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce has taken various steps including mandatory pre-shipment testing of Spices being exported to these destinations, issuance of comprehensive guidelines to be followed by exporters to prevent possible EtO contamination at all stages namely; procurement of raw materials, processing, packing, storage, transportation etc., to meet the varying EtO limits of the importing country.

Further, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is fully committed to ensure the availability of safe food products to the consumers across the country. Towards

this, FSSAI through State/ Union Territories and its Regional Offices conducts regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of various food products including spices, to check compliance with the quality and safety parameters and other requirements as laid down under Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006, and regulations made thereunder.

In cases of non-compliance to the statutory requirements as above, penal action is initiated against the defaulting Food Business Operators (FBOs) as per the provisions laid down under the FSS Act, 2006.

.....