

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.869
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th NOVEMBER, 2024**

MICROPLASTICS IN SALT AND SUGAR

869. SHRI SACHITHANANTHAM R:

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

- (a) whether the Government agrees with the view that the study, titled "Microplastics in Salt and Sugar" conducted by the environmental research organisation Toxics Link, which revealed the presence of microplastics in all salt and sugar samples, in various forms, including fibre, pellets, films and fragments calls for urgent, comprehensive research/study into the long-term health impacts of microplastics on human health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) to (c): The Government is aware of the study conducted by Toxics Link, which detected microplastics in salt and sugar samples. Various studies conducted by different organizations are discussed by the independent experts in the Scientific Panels of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Issues are considered based on the merits of the studies by the experts.

FSSAI has funded the project by CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow, ICAR-Central institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), Kochi and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani titled "Micro-and nano-plastics as emerging food contaminants: Establishing validated Methodologies and understanding the

prevalence in different food matrices". The objectives of the project are:-

- i. Development and validation of analytical methods for identification and quantification of micro/nano-plastics in foods matrices.
- ii. Inter- and intra-laboratory comparison of developed methods in identified food matrices.
- iii. Surveillance and determination of exposure levels of micro-/nano-plastics in identified foods matrices.

.....