

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4743
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20th MARCH, 2026**

ADVERSE HEALTH EFFECTS OF ARTIFICIAL FOOD COLOURS

4743. SHRI K E PRAKASH:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of growing concerns regarding the adverse health effects of artificial food colours, particularly among children, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that certain synthetic food colours banned or restricted in other countries continue to be permitted for use in India;
- (c) if so, the details of the scientific basis for permitting their continued use; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to impose a complete ban on artificial food colours in food products in the interest of public health and if so, the details of the timeline fixed in this regard?

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

(a) to (d): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is mandated to lay down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

The synthetic colours permitted for use in food products as per the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011 are harmonized with the internationally accepted Codex Standards i.e. the General Standard for Food Additives adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

The food additives permitted for use are listed in the Appendix A of Food Safety and

Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 which is available on FSSAI's website at [https://fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Appendix%20A\(4\).pdf](https://fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Appendix%20A(4).pdf). The food safety standards are made based on the scientific opinion provided by independent risk assessment bodies i.e. Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee. Further, the standards are also reviewed on the basis of the available scientific evidence and recognized global best practices.
