

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.820
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026

BAN ON AZODICARBONAMIDE & BUTYLATED HYDROXYANISOLE IN FOOD PRODUCTS

820. SHRI ESWARASAMY K:

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of global scientific studies linking the food additives Azodicarbonamide (ADA) commonly used as a flour-bleaching and dough-strengthening agent in bread and Butylated Hydroxyanisole (BHA) a preservative used in bakery and packaged food products, with cancer, allergies, and respiratory illnesses;
- (b) whether ADA has been completely banned in many countries while BHA is under strict regulation globally and if so, the reasons for permitting it in the Country;
- (c) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has undertaken any recent reassessment of permissible limits for ADA and BHA in view of updated toxicological evidence and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes a complete ban on ADA in bread and stronger regulation of BHA to protect public health; and
- (e) if so, the timeline for revising standards and ensuring strict enforcement and compliance from all food manufacturers and bakeries across the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) : As per Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011, use of Azodicarbonamide (ADA) is permitted in flours and starches (except atta, maida and corn starch) food category.

Butylated Hydroxy anisole (BHA) is permitted for use in several food products including Bakery products.

(b) to (e) : BHA is permitted for use as per CODEX, EU and US-FDA and ADA is permitted for use as per CODEX, EU.

The food safety standards are made based on the scientific opinion provided by independent risk assessment bodies i.e. Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee and are harmonized with internationally accepted Codex standards. Further, the standards are also reviewed time to time on the basis of the available scientific evidence and recognized global best practices.
