

The Government through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has taken various steps to control and prevent indoor air pollution, through National Programme on Biogas Development to provide alternatives to burning firewood, agricultural residues, cattle dung and coal as fuel. National Programme on Improved Chulhas has been taken up to promote thermally efficient and low smoke stoves/smokeless chulhas. IEC activities through electronic and print media are undertaken to give publicity to the programmes. Women Education programmes are also organised in villages to generate awareness about the hazards of burning firewood, agricultural wastes, cattle dung in traditional chulhas and benefits of the biogas technology etc.

Rising cases of food adulteration in the country

*120. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that cases of food adulteration are rising in the country, particularly in the cities;

(b) if so, whether the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and amendments made therein have completely failed to put a check on food adulteration;

(c) if so, whether the various State Governments and eminent food experts have urged the Central Government to award death penalty to those who are responsible for food adulteration in the country; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) As per available information provided by States/UTs on the working of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, the average adulteration in food items on the basis of samples collected in 2009 was 9.96%.

The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA), 1954 has stood the test of time over the years since its enactment. The maximum penalty under this Act is life imprisonment for causing death on account of consumption of adulterated food. Considering the need for a comprehensive approach to food safety in the country, the Parliament has passed the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, to replace the existing PFA Act, 1954 and some other food related orders. Under the new Act, the Government has constituted the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to carry out the provisions of the said Act. The new Act was passed by Parliament after considering all suggestions. There is no provision of death penalty under PFA or the new Act.
