

Measures for checking adulteration of food articles

*443 SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has developed any system to test the adulteration/pollution/contamination of food articles in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of cases registered annually during the last three years; and
- (d) the major types of adulteration and contamination identified in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The food Safety and Standards Authority of India has prescribed standards for different food items under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations made thereunder. Under this Act, the States/UT Governments are mandated to enforce the Act and the Regulations. Random samples of various food articles are drawn regularly by the Food Safety Officers of State/UT Governments and are tested in the Food Testing Laboratories as per the prescribed standards.

(c) As per available information received from State/UT Governments, the number of cases registered annually in three years is as under:-

Year	No. of prosecutions launched
2008	6506
2009	11061
2010	7064

(d) As per available information received from State/UT Governments, major areas where adulteration was reported in 2010 include milk, milk products and fruit products. Non conformity to the prescribed standards in the case of milk is generally on account of extraction of milk fat the addition of glucose & water. Similarly, starch is generally added to milk products such as *Khoa*. Calcium carbide is used for early ripening of fruits.

Irregularities in Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank

*444. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank is plagued with irregularities;

- (b) if so, the action taken against the Board of Directors of the Bank; and
- (c) whether the Ministry would institute a CBI inquiry into these irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Statutory inspection of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank conducted by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) with reference to the financial position as on March 31, 2010 revealed that the bank's financial position has deteriorated further and irregularities reported earlier were persisting in its functioning. NABARD recommended for the supersession of the Board of Directors of the Bank.

Reserve Bank of India vide its letter dated 4.5.2011 requested the Commissioner for Cooperation and Registrar Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra State to make an order for the supersession of the Board of Directors of the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank Ltd. and for appointment of an Administrator therefor.

Registrar Cooperative Societies Govt. of Maharashtra vide its order dated 7.5.2011 superseded the Board of Directors of Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank Ltd. and appointed Board of Administrators to manage the affairs of the Bank.

(c) The bank is already under direction of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under section 35 A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Decision on any further investigation in such case is to be taken by the RBI considering all facts and circumstances.

Deficiency in indigenous natural gas production

445. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

- (a) the existing external sources for the country to acquire natural gas;
- (b) whether India is planning to import natural gas from Israel;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the present status of the proposed Iran-India gas pipeline;
- (e) whether any improvements have been made in this regard;
- (f) whether the country is facing deficiency in terms of natural gas production; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) To acquire natural gas from external sources, India imports LNG through various entities viz. Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL), Hazira LNG Pvt. Ltd. (HLPL), Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) and GAIL (India) Ltd. India imports Liquefied