

Levels of contaminants in food products

1485. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the levels of different contaminants viz, naturally occurring toxins, persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals in food according to any Government report/sample survey of food;

(b) the internationally accepted levels of these toxins according to various international standards and conventions; and

(c) what are the WHO policies for the same and how Government proposes to promote the safety of food, covering entire food chain from production to consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) to (c) The safety limits of different contaminants, viz. naturally occurring toxins and heavy metals in food have been prescribed in Chapter II of Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011.

Internationally accepted levels of these toxins, persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals etc. are available in the Codex Standards, which are developed by Codex Alimentarius Commission [Joint body of World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Food Standard Programme].

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is giving wide publicity about food safety to all stake holders through radio, television and news papers on a regular basis.

Survey on extent of drug abuse

1486. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) plans to conduct a nationwide survey to assess the extent of drug abuse in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the survey being undertaken will assess the number of drug users in the country, quantity of drug used segments in which it is widely prevalent and the kind of help provided by rehabilitation centres; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The NSSO has informed that it does not have any plan to conduct such survey. However, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, which is the nodal Ministry in respect of the problem of drug and alcohol abuse has informed that NSSO carried out a Pilot Survey on the extent, pattern and trends of drug abuse in the cities of Amritsar, Imphal and Mumbai in March-April, 2010 with