

amongst children in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and remote tribal areas of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any nation-wide study has been conducted about the prevalence and main factors contributing to the spread of the disease; and

(c) if so, the estimated number of persons afflicted with the disease, the age-group, races or areas more prone to the disease and other results of such study?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) No nation-wide study has been conducted so far to determine prevalence of sickle cell disease among tribal population in the country. However, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has an ongoing multicentric study conducted in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Orissa with the aim to assess the nutritional and hematological problems in the primitive tribal population. The study is in progress. ICMR has reported that Sickle Cell disease is prevalent in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, remote areas of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and North Eastern States. Sickle-cell disease is a hereditary blood disorder due to defective hemoglobin structure and is inherited. When the genes are inherited from both the parents, the children develop the disease. Generally the disease is found in backward communities.

Selling of spurious ghee

†*78. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that spurious ghee (synthetic) is being sold in the name of pure desi ghee in the country on a large scale which is playing havoc with the health of public

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take against the persons playing with the health of crores of people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The term spurious is not defined in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954. However, the act defines "adulterated" and "misbranded" food products and provides for punishment for such food products. The food is considered as adulterated if the quality or purity of food article falls below the prescribed standards and its constituents are present in quantities not within the prescribed limits of variability. An article is considered as misbranded, if it is deceptive or a substitute or imitation or resembles in a manner likely to deceive another article of food under the name of which it is sold, and is not plainly and conspicuously labelled so as to indicate its true character or is falsely labelled.

Samples of adulterated/misbranded 'ghee' have been lifted in various States/UTs. The adulteration/misbranding of 'ghee' is on account of non-compliance with the standards laid down for 'ghee' under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

According to the information furnished by various Food (Health) authorities of States/UTs, the number of samples examined, found adulterated and percentage of adulteration under the category of Ghee, Butter, Ice-Cream and other milk products during the year 1999 to 2001 are as under:

Year	Number of samples examined	Number of Samples found adulterated/ misbranded	Percentage of adulteration
1999	4334	784	18.08
2000	4364	845	19.36
2001	5085	843	16.57

The provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, and Rules framed thereunder are implemented by the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/Union Territories through their enforcement staff, who draw random samples of various articles of food including ghee regularly. Penalties for aduteration/misbranding of Food items is prescribed in Section 16 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. Appropriate action is taken against the offenders under the relevant provisions by the State Authorities.