

**III-effects of antibiotics laced food**

1857. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that use of antibiotics in farming and foods is leading to antibiotic resistance infections in people across the country;
- (b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent the same;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted on ill effects of antibiotics in foods, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, whether Government is of the view that the results of any such study would be beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Globally, the irrational use and misuse of antibiotics is an important cause of pathogens developing resistance to antibiotics. Such irrational use/misuse also takes place in the animal husbandry and agriculture sectors.

The Government of India has approved National Programme for containment of Antimicrobial Resistance under 12th five year plan in which one of the objectives is to promote rational use of antimicrobials which also includes an inter-sectoral coordination with department of Animal Husbandry and Food Processing Industries.

A National Policy for containment of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in the country was formulated in the year 2011 and has been widely disseminated. The said policy envisages enforcement and enhancement of regulatory provisions for use of antibiotics for humans as also for veterinary use. An insertion has also been made in the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945 to specify the withdrawal period of antibiotics in case of egg, milk, poultry and fish before these enter the human food chain. The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has also issued Advisories in 2014 addressed to all States and Union Territories regarding judicious use of antibiotics to prevent AMR.

Recently, in February, 2016, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized a major conference on 'Combating Antimicrobial Resistance - Public Health Challenge & Priority' at New Delhi in which experts from different sectors participated and discussed the roadmap for preventing and containing Antimicrobial Resistance.

Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that while a study has been undertaken by Centre of Science and Environment, no such study has been conducted by ICMR.

**Health warning on packet of junk food**

†1858. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently made it compulsory to indicate on the packets of junk food like chips that the material it contains is not healthy, as is indicated on cigarette packets;

(b) if so, by when Government will make it mandatory to indicate it on the junk food packets;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ban the adulterated and unhealthy food material in the country and whether its monitoring mechanism is capable for investigation; and

(d) by when e-warranty system will be implemented and what will be the procedure adopted for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) No. 'Junk Food' has not been defined under the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 and Regulations thereunder. However, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued draft Guidelines titled "Guidelines for making available wholesome, nutritious, safe and hygienic food to school children in India" wherein the availability of most common HFSS (High in Fat, Salt and Sugar) Foods in schools and an area within 50 meters thereof has been restricted/limited.

(c) The implementation and enforcement of FSS Act, 2006 and regulations thereunder primarily rests with the State/UT Governments. Surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products is undertaken by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check compliance with the provisions under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and regulations thereunder. In cases, where the food samples are found to be non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act, 2006.

(d) No such proposal is currently being considered by the FSSAI.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.