

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time over. This is the time for Question Hour.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sitaram Yechury.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sitaram Yechury.

SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO (Punjab): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sitaram Yechury.

SHRI P. L. PUNIA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sitaram Yechury.

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार) : महोदय, मैं भी इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR (Himachal Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sitaram Yechury.

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(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Use of plastic in food packaging industry

\*241. SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the widespread use of plastics in food packaging industry is very harmful for human health; and

(b) if so, whether any study has been done by the Ministry in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House:

#### *Statement*

(a) Plastic packaging materials that come in contact with food products can lead to migration of some chemical substances such as residual monomer, additives, plasticizers, pigments, etc., to food when exposed to different temperatures over a longer duration. Conscious of this fact, the Government encourages use of other packaging materials such as jute for packaging food items, where feasible.

All food items cannot, however, be packaged in such alternate materials. Plastic in different forms has, in view of its ability to protect products and extend shelf

life, prevent spoilage and contamination, ensuring better storage and sealing aroma, etc. emerged as a widely used material for packaging and storing food. The plastic material is also temper proof and reduces the chances of adulteration, is corrosion resistant and in most cases, chemically inert.

Keeping the above in view, the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011 prescribe Indian Standards for containers made of plastic material of graded specification for packing or storing of food items. These are based on the Bureau of Indian Standards specifications, which also lay down limits of migration of toxic elements. The use of plastics for packaging food in conformity with specified standards is considered safe in the context of contemporary scientific knowledge.

(b) Opinions regarding safety of plastic vary widely and a scientific consensus on the issue is yet to be reached. However, the way forward is to judicially use all available scientific knowledge and technology to mitigate the adverse effects that may emanate from migration of chemicals from packaging material to packaged food and evolve innovative techniques for use of recycled packaging material in an environment friendly manner.

**श्री दिलीप कुमार तिकी:** सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने जवाब में खुद कहा है कि प्लास्टिक की सेफ्टी के बारे में, प्लास्टिक यूज के बारे में हमारे साइंटिस्ट्स की राय अलग है और जो प्लास्टिक इण्डस्ट्री है, उनकी राय अलग है। जहां तक मेरा मानना है, अभी भी सिचुएशन कंप्यूजन में है। मैं अपने सवाल के दूसरे भाग में यह जानना चाह रहा था कि कंप्यूजन दूर करने के लिए क्या कोई स्टडी की गई है? इस बारे में मुझे पूरा जवाब नहीं मिला है। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यही सवाल करना चाहूंगा कि फ्यूचर में अभी भी जो कंप्यूजन है, प्लास्टिक के यूज में या प्लास्टिक के व्यापार को लेकर, क्या इसके लिए व्यापक रूप से स्टडी कराने की आप कोई योजना बना रहे हैं?

**श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा:** सर, मैं माननीय सदस्य को प्लास्टिक के यूज के बारे में थोड़ा सा क्लियर करना चाहता हूं। चार तरीके के पैकेजिंग मैटीरियल हैं, एक तो पेपर कार्डबोर्ड, दूसरा metal tins, तीसरा प्लास्टिक और चौथा glass, ये चार तरीके के पैकेजिंग मैटीरियल यूज होते हैं। Plastic accounts for approximately 42 per cent of packaging done globally. और प्लास्टिक जैसे टैम्पर प्रूफ भी है, It reduces the chances of adulteration, corrosion resistant है and in most cases, it is chemically inert. यह FSSAI के 10 standards laid down हैं। उन 10 standards के लेड डाउन जो specification हैं, उसके अंतर्गत जब पैकेजिंग होती है तो वह हेल्थ के लिए हॉर्मफुल नहीं होता है। लेकिन अगर उन स्टैंडर्ड से deviate कर जाएं, तो it will be harmful. जहां तक इसकी स्टडी का सवाल है, there are various theories about it. We have not yet reached at any conclusion, but the study is going on. We all know that up to a particular level, plastic is not dangerous, but beyond that, it is dangerous.

**श्री दिलीप कुमार तिकी:** सर, अभी भी प्लास्टिक पैकेजिंग में phthalates नामक एक एलीमेंट पाया जाता है, जो कि कैंसर का कारण होता है। क्या इसकी मात्रा को नियंत्रित करने के लिए कोई स्टैंडर्ड बनाया गया है और इसके साथ-साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगा कि बहुत सारी मेडिसिन्स, जो प्लास्टिक में ही पैक होकर आती हैं, तो उनके बारे में इस तरीके से कहीं बैन करने का कोई प्लान है?

**श्री जगत प्रकाश नड्डा:** सर, फिलहाल इस तरीके का कोई प्लान नहीं है। मैंने पहले कहा कि 60 parts per million अगर इससे नीचे रहता है तो प्लास्टिक problematic नहीं है, लेकिन अगर उससे ज्यादा बढ़ जाएगा तो यह problematic हो जाता है। इसलिए ten standards are laid down by FSSAI. उस ten standards के अंदर packaging material के रूप में it can be used. It is not harmful. Beyond that, it is harmful. हमने कोई ban करने का विषय नहीं रखा है। एक कमेटी की रिपोर्ट आई है, उस कमेटी की रिपोर्ट को हम लोगों ने कंसीड्रेशन में रखा है। उसके पश्चात हम उस पर विचार करेंगे।

**श्री अमर शंकर साबले:** धन्यवाद सभापति महोदय। मैं आपके माध्यम से स्वास्थ्य मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या प्लास्टिक कप में गरम चाय पीने से कैंसर होने की संभावना है और अगर है तो प्लास्टिक कप के निर्माण पर प्रतिबंध क्यों नहीं लगाते?

**SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA:** Sir, this question relates to packaging of carry bags and other plastic materials, which come under the Ministry of Environment and Forests. So, they give the specifications and from State to State, they have got their own notifications on that.

**SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:** Sir, in the reply, it is mentioned, "Keeping the above in view, the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011, prescribe Indian Standards for containers made of plastic material of graded specification for packing or storing of food items." Sugar, which is one of the most important food items, is now being packed in plastic containers. Do you not think that packing sugar in a plastic container is harmful for the health of the people? Why are you not using the jute materials? Earlier, we had been using that, but now it has been stopped due to heavy pressure from plastic manufacturers' lobby.

**SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA:** Sir, it is not a question of why we are not doing it. We have laid the standards. The FSSAI has laid the standards. If the plastic is of that material, it can be used for packaging. If the plastic is not of that material, it cannot be used. That is what we have to understand.

**SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI:** It is known that polyethylene-naphthalate, which is also known as PEN, is widely used in packaging carbonated drinks, water and other drinks. It has lead and potassium permanganate in it. Some countries are thinking of bringing in regulations and restrictions on using PEN. So, are you also thinking of bringing up some standards?

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Sir, I said that, at this point of time, there are ten types of standards laid down. According to those specifications, packaging material is to be used. Globally, the standards are maintained accordingly, and India also does so. As far as leaching and other things are concerned, it affects only when we do not maintain the standards. If it is below 60 parts per million, it does not affect. So, that is what we have to keep in mind.

**Engaging young boys and girls in various sports**

\*242. KUMARI SELJA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme/programme initiated for development of structured system at the grass-root level to engage young boys and girls in the age group of 10-14 in various sports;

(b) whether measures are being taken for ensuring availability of sporting equipments and wholesome nourishment to identified sportspersons; and

(c) whether measures are being taken to set up Sports Science and Sports Medicine Centres to support the sports fraternity, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement***

(a) and (b) The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is implementing a scheme, namely, "Khelo India – National Programme for Development of Sports" with effect from the year 2016-17. Among other things, this scheme aims at conducting annual sports competitions in three age categories, *i.e.*, Sub-junior, Junior and Senior, to encourage mass participation of children in Sports. The age group for these three categories varies in respect of different sports disciplines. The Ministry, through the Sports Authority of India (SAI), is also implementing the following Sports Promotional Schemes for development of structured system at grass-root level to engage young boys and girls in the age group of 10-14 in various sports:

- (i) National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)
- (ii) Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
- (iii) SAI Training Centre (STC)
- (iv) Special Area Games (SAG)
- (v) Extension Centre of STC/SAG