

Safety of food preservatives

†2567. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether food preservatives added in ice-cream, chips, kurkure and biscuit etc. of various companies are safe for children and other people;

(b) under what rule relaxation has been given to preserve edible item, ice-cream for a long period and whether this is not affecting the health of children and the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government is working on a scheme to reduce period of preservation of said foodstuff and to lower the content of food preservatives from health point of view, if so, by when this scheme would be implemented and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) Preservatives added in Food Products like Ice Cream, Chips, Kurkure, Biscuits, etc. need to conform to the provisions laid down in Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. These regulations specify the maximum permissible quantities of each additive that may be added to the food products and if these limits are adhered to, the product is considered safe for consumption.

(b) and (c) No relaxation has been given and Food Business Operators are allowed to use preservatives only as per the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 for manufacture of various food products. Random sampling and testing of food products, etc. is undertaken by officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check compliance of the Regulations. In cases, where the food samples are found to be non-conforming to the prescribed standards, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act, 2006.

Merging of Departments at Safdarjung Hospital

2568. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether arthroscopy and joint replacement are done in the Central Institute of Orthopaedics (CIO) and Sports Injury Centre (SIC) of Safdarjung Hospital;

(b) what other treatments are available in those Departments;

(c) the reasons for maintaining separate Departments for the same treatments;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether CIO and SIC have facilities of 200 and 35 beds, respectively; and

(e) whether Government would merge both the Departments in the same building so that patients may be benefited by enlarging the infrastructural facilities thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) and (b) Arthroscopy and joint replacement are done in the Central Institute of Orthopaedics (CIO) as well as Sports Injury Centre (SIC) of Safdarjung Hospital. Treatment of all Orthopedics diseases and trauma cases are done in CIO, whereas, SIC deals selectively with high end arthroscopic procedures involving multi ligamentous knee injuries, complex shoulder injuries including instability and rotator cuff tears, nerve entrapment, ankle arthroscopies and reconstruction, wrist and elbow arthroscopy, hip arthroscopy, etc. SIC also deals with primary, difficult primary and revision arthroplasties involving hip, knee and shoulder, unicondylar knee arthroplasty and navigation assisted hip and knee arthroplasty.

(c) The Sports Injury Centre (SIC) was established to function as a self sufficient Department providing tertiary and specialized care for management of sports injuries.

(d) Yes.

(e) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Reviewing contributions of ASHAs

†2569. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the contribution of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) in the field of spreading health awareness and improving the situation of Institutional childbirth and in bringing down Child Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Rate; and

(b) if so, the details and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) and (b) Improvement in health indicators including Infant Mortality Rate and Maternal Mortality Ratio is dependent on a number of factors. However, Review Mission reports and evaluation of ASHA programme in select States demonstrate that ASHAs have been effective in mobilisation for immunisation and in increasing institutional deliveries. An ASHA

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