

Fixing contents of sugar and salt in food and beverages

2531. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to high consumption of soft drinks, colas and other canned foods, diseases like diabetes, cardio vascular are affecting health issues, if so, whether Government is planning to fix quantity of sugar in various aerated drinks and energy tonics;

(b) whether Government is planning to fix standards for addition of salt in processed food like breads, biscuits and other bakery items;

(c) the estimate of extent of adulteration of food items by using artificial colours which have bad effect on health; and

(d) whether Government is planning to strengthen the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) at Central and State level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE): (a) Increased consumption of soft drinks, colas and other canned foods, contribute to obesity which is risk factor of Hypertension, Cardio-vascular problems, Diabetes, Stoke, etc. Further, as per sub-regulation 2.2.2.3(ii) of the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011, quantity of sugar per 100g or 100 ml or per serving of the products, is required to be specified on the label. However, there is no proposal to fix quantity of sugar in aerated drinks and energy tonics, under consideration in the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

(b) No such proposal is under consideration in FSSAI.

(c) No separate data about extent of adulteration of food items by using artificial colours, is maintained centrally at FSSAI.

(d) Strengthening of Food and Drugs Administration at Central and State levels is a continuous process. FSSAI has rolled out a scheme for strengthening of food testing system in the Country with an outlay of ₹ 481.95 crore. Further, the Government has also approved a proposal for strengthening of drug regulatory system in the country, both at the Central and State levels at a cost of ₹ 1750 crore. Out of this, ₹ 900 cr. are for strengthening of Central regulatory structure, while ₹ 850 crore have been approved as the Central Government's contribution for upgrading and strengthening the States' Drug Regulatory System.