

## **Regarding rise in lifestyle diseases**

**SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET):** Sir, I want to place on record five datapoints. The first one is this. There is a huge amount of FDI coming into the healthcare system. The second datapoint is this. We are the largest producer and consumer of sugar. The third datapoint is this. The ultra-processed food is growing at almost 13 per cent every year. The fourth datapoint is this. We are becoming the cancer capital. The fifth datapoint is this. We are having the highest number of diabetic patients. Even the Prime Minister has mentioned about it.

The gist of it is that our country as whole is becoming unhealthy because of huge consumption of processed food with the highest sugar content. My request is this. UK has done a layered tax system. It is because of that, in the last three years, they put down sugar content in the foods and beverages by 29 per cent. So, I request the Health Ministry and also the Finance Ministry to look at it so that zero sugar drinks and foods can have 12 per cent GST, low to moderate sugar drinks can have 18 per cent GST plus cess, and high sugar drinks and high-processed foods can have 28 per cent GST plus cess. Thank you, Sir.