

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3225
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
RADIATION TECHNOLOGY FOR MEDICAL FOOD PRODUCTS
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether radiation technology is being used for medical and food products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken to apply radiation technology in health care and food preservation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI S.B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Atomic Energy(DAE) is involved in utilising radiation technology for sterilisation of medical products and processing of food products. Three plants have been developed : one for the sterilisation of medical products, another for the hygenisation of spices and other products, and the third for sprout inhabitation in onions.

(c) Seminars and symposia have been organised across the country to create awareness about the advantages of irradiation technology in healthcare and food preservation. Medical physicists and radiation technologists are being trained to staff facilities in the area of nuclear medicine in various hospitals of the country. Many professional organisations in the field of radiation technology have also shown keen interest in the popularisation of the benefits of this technology through various means.