

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4080  
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005  
BAN ON SALE OF NON IODISED SALT  
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep;Singh Shri Uday;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

- (a) Whether the Union Government had banned the sale of non-iodised salt;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government has lifted the ban on the sale of non-iodised salt in the year 2000;
- (d) if so, the reasons for the same;
- (e) whether the Government is aware that the use of non-iodised salt has effected mental development of children as reported in the `Hindu` dated March 23, 2005;
- (f) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (g) whether the Government has received representations to ban sale and use of non-iodised salt in the country;
- (h) if so, whether the Government proposes to re-impose a national ban on the sale of non-iodised salt ; and
- (i) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) : A notification GSR 670(E) dated 27.11.97 was issued under PFA Rules, 1955 w.e.f 27.5.98 restricting the sale of edible common salt for direct human consumption unless the same was iodized.

This measure was taken in the interest of public health and on the technical advice of health experts.

(c) & (d): A notification was issued vide GSR No. 716(E) dated 13.9.2000 withdrawing, with effect from 30.9.2000, the restrictions which were imposed on sale on common salt for direct human consumption vide GSR No. 670(E) dated 27.11.1997.

This decision was taken in the wake of sustained representations received from various sections of public, to the effect that matter of public health should be left to the `informed` choice and not enforced through compulsion.

(e) & (f) : It has been reported in `The Hindu` dated 23.3.2005 that in most of the States, consumption of iodized salt has come down since the lifting of the ban on iodized salt. Further it has been stated that over 90% of the population must consume iodized salt to eliminate iodine deficiency as a public health problem.

(g) The UNICEF has expressed concern over the decline in consumption of iodized salt after the withdrawal of restriction on sale of edible common salt in the year 2000 under the PFA Rules, 1955.

(h) and

(i) The Govt. is proposing to restrict the sale of edible common salt for direct human consumption unless the same is iodized. Accordingly, there is a proposal to amend the relevant provisions of the PFA Rules, 1955.

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