

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6822
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005
ILL EFFECT OF FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP
Rao Shri Devarakonda Vittal

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the high fructose corn syrup found in beverages and soft aerated drinks in particular is playing a major role in increasing the epidemic of obesity which is afflicting a large number of children in the country ;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has carried out any research in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the high fructose corn syrup provides empty calories. When consumed in excess by the children without adequate physical activities it may lead to development of overweight and obesity. However, the Council has not carried out any study in this regard.

The Central Government has developed dietary guidelines and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material wherein excess consumption of soft aerated beverages has been discouraged. Since creating awareness through information, education and communication is the main strategy to tackle this issue, this component has been incorporated in the National Programme for Control of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD) for which this Ministry has sought in principle approval from the Planning Commission.