

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2247
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005
NUTRIENT CONTENTS OF PACKAGED FOOD- ITEMS
Munshiram Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government has ever checked packaged food -items to verify the nutrient present in them;
- (b) if so, the details of finding thereof;
- (c) the details of the manufactures found violating the stipulated norms an the action taken against them;
- (d) whether the Government is considering to prepare a policy in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the time by which the said policy is likely to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): Declaring nutrient content in any food is not mandatory as per the provisions contained in the PFA Rules, 1955. However, the rules require that the food claimed to be enriched with nutrients such as minerals, proteins or vitamins shall give quantities of such added nutrients on the lable.

All the food products manufactured in India or imported in India are required to meet the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder including these pertaining to the nutrients claims. Violation of any provisions attracts legal action under the PFA Act, 1954.

The Central Committee for Food Standards, a statutory committee under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954, recommended the amendment of PFA Rules, 1955 to declare the complete nutritional information of the food product on its label. The information as recommended to be given on the label shall be in the following format:-

`The complete nutritional information per 100 gm of the product shall be given on the label containing the following:-

- (i) Information on energy value should be expressed in kJ and Kcal per 100 gm or per 100 ml alongwith percentage of nutrient of RDA of ICMR.
- (ii) Information on the amounts of protein, carbohydrate and fat in the food should be expressed in gm per 100 gm or per 100 ml alongwith percentage of nutrient of RDA of ICMR.
- (iii) The amount and /or type of fatty acids (including amount of saturated fatty acids, polyunsaturated fatty acids and trans fatty acids).
- (iv) Numerical information on vitamins and minerals should be expressed in metric units and/or as a percentage of the Nutrient Reference Value of ICMR per 100 gm or per 100 ml alongwith percentage of nutrient of RDA of ICMR.`

The above proposal has been published in the official Gazette on 28.11.2005 for inviting objections and suggestions.