

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2237  
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2005  
IMPORTED FOOD ITEMS  
Jagannath Dr. M.

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

- (a) whether 80 percent of imported food items violates Indian laws as reported in the Asian Age dated October 13, 2005;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the genetically modified foods, which are banned in the country, are being dumped here by the developed countries damaging the health of our people;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard ; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) No Sir, Government have taken necessary steps to ensure that food products imported into the country meets all the requirements prescribed under PFA Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder.

All food projects manufactured in India or imported in India are required to meet the standards and rules including labeling provisions prescribed under PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955. This includes the information relating to use of flavours, date of manufacture, best before date, etc. Violation of any provision attracts legal action under the PFA ACT, 1954.

(c)to (e) The food products which are genetically modified whether manufactured in India or imported in India can only be marketed for human consumption in India after obtaining the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) constituted under Environmental Protection Act, 1986 which is administered by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Necessary provisions are being made under PFA Rules, 1955 to label compulsorily all the food products which contains genetically modified ingredients or material.