

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1728

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2005

ASSESSMENT OF OUTDATED LAWS OF WEIGHT AND MEASURES

Sethi Shri Arjun Charan

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether complaints have been received regarding contamination of vegetarian products with non- vegetarian ingredients;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to amend the Weights and Measures Act, 1976 to fix accountability in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) : Yes Sir. Two complaints one from M/s. Patiala Consumer and Telephone Subscribers Forum, Patiala and other from National Human Right Commission, New Delhi forwarding the complaint from one Sh. Vijay Kumar Kochar of Delhi have been received in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare through Department of Consumer Affairs informing that the package of bread, cake, pastry, band, biscuit, kulcha, ice cream, chocolate, chewing gum, coca cola, allegedly contains ingredient of non-vegetarian but these products are labeled as vegetarian by symbol of vegetarian. All Food (Health) Authorities of States/UTs have been requested to investigate the matter and draw legal samples of these products for analysis.

(b) & (c): All food articles including packaged food are covered under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder. As per rule 32 of the PFA Rules, 1955 every package of food articles shall have a declaration on the label by specific symbol and colour code indicating that the ingredients used in the products are vegetarian/non-vegetarian origin. Violation of any provisions of the PFA Act and Rules attracts legal action. In view of the above there is no need to make similar provisions under Weights and Measures Act 1976.