

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4236
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2005
IMPACT OF SILVER FOIL ON HEALTH
Vijay Krishna Shri

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

- (a) whether use of silver foil in the preparation of sweets is highly harmful as per the study conducted by the Industrial Toxicology Research Centre ;
- (b) if so, the details of the findings of the said Centre in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any steps against the use of silver foil ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Studies with silver foil feeding show no toxic or untowards effects. In the studies carried out by ITRC, Lucknow out of 178 samples analysed, 74 samples were found to contain 99.9% silver as prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955. However, 81 samples were found to contain silver in the range of 82.5 to 99.8 percent silver. 17 samples were made out of aluminum but sold as silver leaf. In these samples nickel and lead was detected more than the prescribed limit under PFA Rules, 1955.

(c) to (e) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 prescribe specification of silver leaf (Chandi-ka-warq) food grade and it should contain not less than 99.9 percent of silver.

Under PFA Rules maximum level of metal contaminants in various food products have been prescribed. Though, silver leafs have not been listed specifically in this rule but there is a general requirements of maximum level of metal contaminants in food other than those prescribed. If the metal contaminants in food grade silver foil exceeds specified limits it would amounts to adulteration. As per the provisions of PFA Act Penal actions are taken for sale/use of silver foil not conforming to the prescribed standards.