

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3153
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2005
EFFECT OF ACETIC ACID ON HEALTH
Jagannath Dr. M.

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

- (a) whether various soft drinks like pepsi and coke available in the country contain acetic acid which is generally used to clean toilets as a germicide;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study to assess it's effect on the health of the consumers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/ 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) to (e) Acetic acid is an approved food additive by Codex Alimentarius Commission. Food grade acetic acid has been recommended to be used as preservative and acidity regulator in food products. The Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) evaluated the use and safety profile of acetic acid in 1965 which has been reviewed from time to time with the last review being carried out in 2002.

Vinegar which is a food item and consumed by the populace at large is basically acetic acid. Under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, acetic acid (food grade) is permitted to be added in some food products including carbonated water.