

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3010
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006
CLASSIFICATION OF ARECANUT
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to classify Arecanut as ingredient to gutka as injurious to health;
- (b) Whether Arecanut has been known for generations for its curative and therapeutic properties; and
- (c) If so, the details thereof ?

Answer

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

(a)to(c) : There are no standards for Arecanut under the PFA Rules, 1955. However, arecanut is permitted to be used as one of the ingredient in Pan Masala, standards for which have been prescribed. Since, arecanut is a known carcinogen, due to presence of alkaloids. Some of the studies have found that chewing of arecanut / Pan Masala to be associated development with the of oral sub mucous fibrosis. Rule 42(ZZZ)(6) under PFA Rules, 1955 provides that every package of Supari and advertisement relating thereto shall carry the following warning in conspicuous and bold print namely :-

(chewing of Supari is Injurious to health)

Arecanut is used in Ayurvedic Medicine after a thorough purification process and after mixing with many ingredients to make multiple ingredient Ayurvedic Medicines like :- SUPARI PAK (PUG-Khand).