

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:362

ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005

CARCINOGENIC CHEMICALS IN BABY PRODUCTS

Manvendra Singh Shri ;Ponnuswamy Shri E.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that Maharashtra Food & Drug Authority (FDA) has directed certain companies engaged in the production of baby food to remove the work `baby` from products meant for infants as reported in the Hindustan Times dated March 17, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether the chemicals used by such companies are carcinogenic in nature;
- (d) if so, whether any modalities in this regard have been worked out;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the preventive measures being taken to protect the babies from ill effects of chemicals used in such products?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 362 FOR 20TH APRIL, 2005

The Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration (FDA), Maharashtra, issued a show cause notice to M/s Johnson and Johnson on 15.3.2005 asking their explanation for marketing their various cosmetic products as `baby products`. Similar notices have also been issued to M/s Wipro Ltd., Bangalore, M/s Himalaya Drug Co., Bangalore, M/s Dabur India Ltd., New Delhi and M/s Imami Ltd., Kolkata, in respect of their products marketed exclusively for use of babies.

The Commissioner, FDA, Maharashtra, who had licensed these products, has taken a view that the firm`s claim that their baby oil is the ideal massage oil for babies is not justified for a cosmetic product and the product is, therefore, misbranded under Section 17-C of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Similarly, in the notices to the 3 ayurvedic manufacturers, they have been asked to explain the proof of `Adikaran` regarding manufacture of their baby oils and their safety and benefits for being massaged on baby skins.

In the said notices to above mentioned five companies including M/s Johanson & Johnson, Mumbai, the Commissioner, FDA, Maharashtra, has not alleged the ingredients or the products to be carcinogenic in nature.

The ingredients used by M/s Johnson & Johnson in their baby oil i.e. liquid paraffin, Tocopheryl acetate (Vit. E), ready mixture of Vitamin A&D and perfume are used world over in the manufacture of various cosmetic products as well as pharmaceuticals and are not reported to be unsafe,. The standards for cosmetics and the raw material used in the finished cosmetics are prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). As per specification for mineral oil for cosmetic industry, it is stated in the BIS standard that it possesses excellent stability to heat, light, acids and alkalis, has no colour or odour and is harmless to skin.