

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Issue regarding transportation of formaldehyde-contaminated fish in India.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Speaker Madam, in June this year, the Kerala Government found formaldehyde-contaminated fish being transported into the State. Soon after, a study revealed presence of around 5 to 20 times of the chemical in freshwater and marine fish in two of the cities of Chennai. Goa also reported similar findings and presence of around 5 to 20 ppm of chemical in freshwater and marine fish. However, Food and Drugs Administration of Goa later said that the level in Goan samples were on par with naturally occurring formaldehyde in marine fish. This triggered suspicion among consumers who accused the Government of playing down the health risk as the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has already banned formaldehyde in fresh fish. While the International Agency for Research on Cancer labelled the chemical a carcinogen in 2004, in Odisha also adequate steps have been taken because most of the coastal States are fish-eating States. But the fish that are being imported from Europe and other parts contain this chemical which is hazardous for health and leads to cancer.

There is an urgent need to address the concerns of consumers scientifically over formaldehyde contamination of fish. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to draw a line between safe and unsafe consumption in a transparent manner with the help of experts.

HON. SPEAKER:

Dr. P.K. Biju,

Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher,

Shri Shrirang Appa Barne,

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and

Shri Sharad Tripathi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.