

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2501
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2019**

**ACTION ON FINDINGS OF CSE ON ILLEGAL
SALE OF GM FOODS IN THE COUNTRY**

2501. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR:

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

- (a) whether actions have been taken on the findings of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) study regarding labelled Genetically Modified (GM) foods being illegally sold in India in 2018;
- (b) if any action has been taken since then; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has informed that they had received a communication from Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) dated 26.07.2018 informing about the results of studies conducted by CSE on processed foods for presence of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). In this connection, MoEFCC has further informed CSE that following the setting up of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2006, considering that Section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 covers activities related to GM Foods, a notification was issued under Rules 1989 in 2007 exempting GM processed food, ingredients, additives and processing aids from the purview of Rule 11 of the Rules, 1989.

Four laboratories (namely Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi; Punjab Biotechnology Incubator, Mohali; Export Inspection Agency, Kochi, Guntur) have been strengthened by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to detect the presence or absence of GMOs, and have been notified as National Referral Facilities by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare under Seed Act, 1966.

Further, report of labeled Genetically Modified (GM) food being sold in India came to the notice of FSSAI through a survey report titled 'qPCR-based Detection of Genetically Modified Processed Foods in India' by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE). On receipt of survey report, FSSAI issued notices in the month of August, 2018 to the concerned Food Business Operators to provide their comments on the findings of the said report. In response to the notices, such Food Business Operators replied that their products did not contain any GM ingredients and supported their claim with National Accreditation Board for Testing & Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited lab reports.