

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 95
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22ND JULY, 2016
POTASSIUM BROMATE IN BREADS**

***95. SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:**

SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the recent study by the Centre for Science and Environment which found 85 per cent of bread and bakery items containing potassium bromate;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether the international agency including World Health Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organisation and International Agency for Research on Cancer have also declared it to be potentially carcinogenic and imposed ban in many countries and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to ban the use of potassium bromate as a food additive and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard and to prevent use of hazardous food additives in the future?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA

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(a) & (b) The Government is aware of the study by the Centre for Science and Environment. Potassium bromate was earlier permitted to be used as an additive for manufacturing bread and other bakery products under the erstwhile Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

(c) Potassium bromate was formally withdrawn from the combined Compendium of Food Additives of Food and Agriculture Organization/ World Health Organization in 2011. In several countries, the use of potassium bromate in bread is not permitted. In United States of America (USA), potassium bromate is typically used as a flour improver and an oxidizing agent. United States Food and Drugs Authority (USFDA) continues to allow use of potassium bromate in bread.

(d) & (e) As part of the exercise for harmonization of food additives with Codex General Standards for Food Additives, the Scientific Panel of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recommended removal of potassium bromate from the list of permitted additives in October, 2015. FSSAI, in its meeting held on 27th January 2016, approved removal of potassium bromate from the list of additives. FSSAI has since operationalized the new list of additives that does not include potassium bromate as an additive with effect from 20th June 2016.
