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Goa health mantri insists fish is safe to eat

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PANAJI: Health minister Vishwajit Rane on Friday said fish sold in the state was safe for consumption and free of formaldehyde.

“There is absolutely no need to panic or to pay heed to any rumours. We are keeping a strict vigil,” Rane said in a statement that was issued after AAP released a video claiming that fish brought in from other states contained formalin.

The health minister said fish can be brought into Goa only from two notified entry points Polem and Patradevi which are manned round-the-clock by the Quality Council of India (QCI). “All the vehicles are thoroughly checked by QCI officials before they enter Goa,” he said.

Rane explained that the procurement of fish from outside the state is restricted as only insulated vehicles having a transporter’s licence under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India are permitted entry. A relaxation, he said, is provided only to vehicles that come from within the 60-km radius of Polem and Patradevi.

“Each vehicle entering the state is checked for documents and the fish is inspected using a CIFT test kit,” the health minister said.