

Bill No. 88 of 2024

THE FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS (AMENDMENT)
BILL, 2024

By

SHRI D.M. KATHIR ANAND, M.P.

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BILL

further to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called as the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Act, 2024.

Short title and
commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date, as the Central Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, appoint.

Amendment of section 3.

2. In section 3 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (hereinafter refer to as the principal Act),— 34 of 2006.

(a) after clause (b), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(ba) "appropriate Government" means in the case of a State, the Government of that State and in all other cases, the Central Government;" 5

(b) after clause (c) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(ca) "child" means a boy or a girl who has not attained the age of eighteen years;"

(c) after clause (g), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

"(ga) "Council" means the Nutrition Council constituted under section 17A;" and

(d) after clause (h), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:— 10

"(ha) "educational institution" includes—

(i) a school established, owned or controlled by the appropriate Government or a local authority; or

(ii) a school receiving aid or grants from the appropriate Government or the local authority to meet whole or part of its expenses; 15

(iii) a school belonging to specified category; or

(iv) an unaided school not receiving any kind of aid or grants to meet its expenditure; or

(v) an educational institution managed by a private entity, society or a trust, which imparts elementary education;" 20

Insertion of new Chapter IIA.

3. After Chapter II of the principal Act, the following Chapter and sections thereunder shall be inserted, namely:—

"CHAPTER IIA

NUTRITION COUNCIL

Establishment of Nutrition Council.

17A. The Central Government shall, by notification in the official gazette, establish a Council to be known as the Nutrition Council to regulate sale and advertising of food products which cause obesity amongst children. 25

Composition of Nutrition Council.

17B. The Council shall consist of —

(a) the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Chairperson, *ex-officio*;

(b) not more than three members having expertise in medicine with at least fifteen years of experience in handling issues related to nutrition and child health; 30

(c) one expert each in the field of labelling and claims, advertisement, food additives, processing aids; and

(d) one member from the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development not below the rank of Joint Secretary. 35

Functions of the Council.

17C. The Council shall —

(a) lay down policies and principles to regulate sale and advertising of food products cause obesity amongst children;

- (b) determine its procedure in the performance of its functions;
- (c) admit any complaints regarding non-implementation of its policies; and
- (d) initiate action for violating provisions of this Chapter.

5	17D. The Central Government shall provide such number of officers and other employees to the Council as may be necessary for efficient discharge of its functions.	Central Government to provide Officers and employees.
	17E. All food products containing high sugar, calories, sodium, saturated fat or any other ingredient present in food products beyond limits stipulated and detrimental to health of children shall bear label warning about the presence of excess ingredient in black bold letters.	Labelling of food products by the Council..
10	17F. All food products labelled under section 17E shall not be sold within a radius of one kilometre of educational institution.	Prohibition of sale of labelled food products near educational institution.
	17G. All food products labelled under section 17E shall not be advertised in print, television or any other form targeting children below the age of eighteen years.	Prohibition on advertising of labelled food products.
15	17H. Whoever sells a labelled food product in contravention of the provisions of this Chapter shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend upto three years and fine which may extend upto rupees ten lakhs.	Punishment for sale of labelled food products.
	17I. Whoever advertises a labelled food product in contravention of provisions of this Chapter shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend upto two years and fine which may extend upto rupees five lakhs."	Punishment for advertisement of labelled food product.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

Increasing exposure to variety of fast foods has led to rise in consumption of food products which are largely detrimental to the health of the persons. While adults can recognise the harmful effects the targeted advertising of such unhealthy food products towards younger population has led to poor lifestyle standards amongst youth. The need is to regulate the sale and advertising of such food products so as to save children from their harmful effects.

Childhood obesity is a major challenge in the battle against rising rate of non-communicable diseases in India. While India is already facing challenges in providing affordable healthcare access to its citizens, the effects of poor lifestyle habits among its urban citizens adds further burden on the country's resources. The establishment of Nutrition Council under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with adequate representation of professionals will be vital in regulating use of ingredients resulting in obesity. A warning label on food products having more than permissible limit of certain ingredients would caution the consumers about their ill-effects.

It is also necessary to place restriction on advertisement of food products which cause obesity and sale of such food products near educational institutions. The Bill, accordingly, seeks to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 with a view to reduce consumption of unhealthy food products by children.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
July 9, 2024.

D.M. KATHIR ANAND

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 3 of the Bill seeks to constitute a Nutrition Council to regulate the sale and advertising of food products which cause obesity amongst children. It also provides for appointments of experts, officers and employees to the Nutrition Council. The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. It is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees fifty crore per annum would be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees one hundred crore is also likely to be involved.

ANNEXURE

[EXTRACT FROM FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS ACT, 2006]

(No. 34 OF 2006)

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Definitions.

3. (I) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, –

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(b) “advertisement” means any audio or visual publicity, representation or pronouncement made by means of any light, sound, smoke, gas, print, electronic media, internet or website and includes through any notice, circular, label, wrapper, invoice or other documents;

(c) “Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Food Authority;

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(g) “contaminant” means any substance, whether or not added to food, but which is present in such food as a result of the production (including operations carried out in crop husbandry, animal husbandry or veterinary medicine), manufacture, processing, preparation, treatment, packing, packaging, transport or holding of such food or as a result of environmental contamination and does not include insect fragments, rodent hairs and other extraneous matter;

(h) “Designated Officer” means the officer appointed under section 36;

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further to amend the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

(Shri D.M. Kathir Anand, M.P.)