

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4104  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL, 2018**

**BANNING OF JUNK FOOD IN SCHOOLS/ COLLEGES**

**4104. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA:**

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

- (a) whether there is any proposal before Government to ban junk food in schools and colleges in different parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Junk Food is not defined under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder. However, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued draft guidelines titled 'Guidelines for making available Wholesome, Nutritious, Safe and Hygienic Food to School Children in India on 12.10.2015 prepared by the Expert Group/Central Advisory Committee as per the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter of WP(C) No. 8568 of 2010 titled 'Uday Foundation for Congenital defects and Rare Blood Vs UOI & Others' wherein availability of most common High in Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods in schools have been restricted/limited .

To address the issue of High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) in food and associated health risks, FSSAI constituted an Expert Group that included eminent experts from the fields of medicine, nutrition, and dietetics representing well known medical research and academic institutions. The report submitted by the Expert Group has been uploaded on FSSAI's website i.e. [www.fssai.gov.in](http://www.fssai.gov.in) and shared with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also constituted an Expert Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 to provide a comprehensive set of recommendations relating to all nodal agencies for implementation of evidence based strategy for reducing consumption of high fat, sugar & salt foods.

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The Expert Group on HFSS foods constituted by FSSAI had, inter-alia, made a recommendation regarding ban on advertising of foods with High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) on children's channels or during children shows. FSSAI is of the view that Food Businesses could be asked to voluntarily desist from advertising HFSS foods on children's channels. Bodies like Food and Beverage Alliance of India (FBAI) have already decided to voluntarily restrict food and beverage advertisements to children. Nine major Food Business Operators (FBOs) have joined this campaign and have decided not to advertise products with high fat, salt or sugar on children's channels.

FSSAI has also undertaken Safe & Nutritious Food at School initiative to raise awareness amongst children on the importance of safe, nutritious and healthy food. Under this initiative, school teachers as Health and Wellness Coordinators are being trained to promote healthy and nutritious diets among children. FSSAI also brought out a booklet 'Yellow Book' that provides age appropriate contents which can be adopted across schools through State education machineries as part of their curricular and co-curricular activities. It, inter-alia contains topics such as good food safety practices, personal hygiene and cleanliness habits, eating a balanced diet, packing a wholesome lunchbox, preventing nutritional deficiencies and making healthy choices. FSSAI has also created safe and nutritious food mascots-Master Sehat and Miss Sehat-superheroes who spread awareness among children.

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