

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2531
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2024**

MANUFACTURING OF FAKE FOOD ITEMS IN THE COUNTRY

2531 SMT. SUNETRA AJIT PAWAR:

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

- (a) the responsibility of Government to stop the manufacturing of fake food items in the country;
- (b) the reasons for not being able to stop the manufacturing of fake food items leading to the rapid increase in the manufacturing and sale of fake paneer and cheese, which is playing havoc with the health of the people;
- (c) if so, the number of cases of fake paneer and cheese that have come to light in the last one year, State-wise, especially in Maharashtra; and
- (d) the details of the action taken by Government against the manufacturers of fake food items like paneer, cheese, khoya, milk, spices etc.?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (d): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is mandated to lay down science-based standards for food articles and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. In line with this mandate, FSSAI through State/Union Territories and its Regional Offices conducts regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of various food products including spices, milk and milk products to check compliance with the quality and safety parameters and other requirements as laid down under Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006, and regulations made thereunder.

These actions also aim to keep check on any illegal practices or malpractices resorted by Food Business Operators (FBOs) related to food quality and safety. In cases where food samples fail to meet the required standards and FBOs are found in contravention of the

provisions of the FSS Act, 2006, penal actions are taken against the defaulting FBOs as per the provisions of the FSS Act 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

Further, in order to ensure that the quality of milk and milk products sold in the country is maintained, FSSAI conducted a surveillance drive in 2023, wherein 10,126 samples of milk & milk products were collected and tested. This survey revealed that 98% samples were safe for human consumption. Based on the surveillance report of Milk and Milk Products, FSSAI in FY 2024-25, carried out an enforcement drive through State/Union Territories Food Authorities and Regional Offices. The State/UT and Regional Office-wise breakup of samples analysed and found conforming during enforcement drive is at Annexure.

Details of various samples (including milk and milk products and Spices) analysed, found non-conforming and action taken during enforcement of various Food Safety and Standards Regulations are as below:

S.No	Year	No of Samples Analysed	No of Samples found non-conforming	No of Civil Cases Launched	No of Criminal Cases Launched
1	2021-22	144345	32934	28906	4946
2	2022-23	177511	44626	38096	4818
3	2023-24	170513	33808	33854	6377

Annexure

The State/UT and Regional Office-wise breakup of samples of Milk and Milk Products, analysed and found conforming during enforcement drive in 2024-25 (As on 13.12.2024)

S.NO	Name of State/ Regional Office (FSSAI)	Sample Analysed	Conforming
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	9	9
2	Andhra Pradesh	0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	4	4
4	Assam	0	0
5	Bihar	0	0
6	Chandigarh	23	19
7	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	0	0
8	Delhi	25	23
9	Goa	4	2
10	Gujarat	0	0
11	Himachal Pradesh	3	1
12	Karnataka	77	77
13	Kerala	4	2
14	Ladakh	6	5
15	Lakshadweep	2	2
16	Madhya Pradesh	35	32
17	Maharashtra	5	5
18	Manipur	0	0
19	Meghalaya	10	10
20	Mizoram	0	0
21	Nagaland	6	6
22	Odisha	0	0
23	Puducherry	2	2
24	Sikkim	0	0
25	Tamil Nadu	36	32
26	Telangana	45	37
27	Tripura	0	0
28	Uttar Pradesh	75	54
29	Uttarakhand	5	5
30	West Bengal	36	30
31	Northern Regional Office (FSSAI)	35	30
32	Southern Regional Office (FSSAI)	50	45
33	Eastern Regional Office (FSSAI)	15	14
34	Western Regional Office (FSSAI)	45	41
	Total	557	487