

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1947**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2025

**USE OF PALM OIL IN FOOD PRODUCTS**

1947. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the widespread use of palm oil in food products like bakery industry;
- (b) if so, the total availability/estimated consumption of palm oil in the country;
- (c) whether any studies have been conducted on the health impacts of palm oil consumption and if so, the key findings thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to ensure quality, safety and proper labelling of palm oil in food manufacturing, in beauty products and as biofuel; and
- (e) whether Government is considering initiatives to promote healthier and more sustainable alternatives to palm oil and if so, the details of such initiatives?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE, CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
(SHRI B.L VERMA)

(a) & (b): Palm oil is a standardized product under Sub-regulation 2.2.1(19) of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011. Domestic production of oilseeds and thereby edible oil is unable to meet the demand in the country and hence the country has to rely on imports to meet the gap between demand and supply. To meet the demand, the short fall which is around 56% is met through imports. Out of the total quantity of oils imported, Palm oils (Crude & Refined) constitute around 57% and are imported mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia. Total availability/estimated consumption of palm oil in the country is given at the **Annexure**.

(c) & (d): FSSAI is fully committed to ensure the availability of safe food products to the consumers across the country and has taken following steps to ensure quality, safety and proper labelling of palm oil in food manufacturing:

- i. Standards of Palm Oil is notified in Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011.
- ii. Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 specifies the labeling requirement of the food products including products containing Oil, wherein list of ingredients shall be declared on the label of food products. As per these regulations, Food Business Operators shall comply with the following provisions:

A specific name shall be used for ingredients in the list of ingredients:

Provided that for ingredients falling in the respective classes, the following class titles may be used, namely: -

S.No.	Name of the classes	Class title
1	Edible vegetable oil	Give name of the specific edible oil such as mustard oil, groundnut oil, etc.

- iii. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of various food products including bakery products are conducted throughout the year by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/ UTs and Regional offices of FSSAI.
- iv. In cases of non-compliance to the statutory requirements as above, penal actions are initiated against the defaulting FBOs as per the provisions for Offences & Penalties laid under FSS Act, 2006.

BIS through its Oils and Oilseeds Sectional Committee, FAD 13 has published IS 8323 : 2018 'Palm Oil — Specification (first revision)' which specifies requirements (including quality, safety and labelling) for palm oil derived from the fleshy mesocarp of the fruit of the oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) tree by the process of expression. IS 8323 specifies that the palm oil shall be of either Refined grade or Raw grade. Refined palm oil is suitable for direct edible consumption. Raw palm oil is suitable for making refined oil and Vanaspati and not for direct edible consumption. Moreover, no separate Standards exists for Palm Oil for beauty products.

BIS through its Petroleum and their Related Products of Synthesis or Biological Origin Sectional Committee, PCD 03 has formulated the following two Indian Standards, which allow use of vegetable oils including palm oil for production of Biodiesel Fuel:

- i. IS 15607 : 2022 Biodiesel B-100 - Fatty Acid Methyl Esters FAME Specification
- ii. IS 16531 : 2022 Biodiesel Diesel Fuel Blend B8 to B20 Specification

(e) : It is the informed choice of the Consumers to choose the product on the basis of information of the ingredients declared on the label of the food products as specified in the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020.

## ANNEXURE

### **ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER NO.1947 FOR 18.03.2025 REGARDING USE OF PALM OIL IN FOOD PRODUCTS.**

**Details of Availability/Consumption pattern of Palm Oil is as under:-**

2023-24 (Oil Year, Nov-Oct)	Production (LMT) A 2023-24	Import (LMT) B 2023-24	Net availability/ consumption (LMT) (A+B)
Crude Palm Oils	3.9	70.16	<b>74.06</b>
RBD Palmolein	0	18.98	<b>18.98</b>
Total	3.9	89.14	<b>93.04</b>

Source - DSVO, DGCIS

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