

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3464
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2025**

ULTRA-PROCESSED FOOD LABELLING

3464 SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE:

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

- (a) the reasons for the delay in implementation of the front-of-pack warning labels and stricter advertising regulations for High Fat, Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods and Ultra-Processed Foods (UPFs) that were proposed in 2017; and
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware that the current labelling system allows unhealthy products like biscuits and sugary cereals to falsely project themselves as some level of 'healthy', thereby misleading consumers and violating their right to accurate information, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) & (b): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in September, 2022 has notified the draft of Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Amendment Regulations which is available at https://fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Draft_Notification_HFSS_20_09_2022.pdf. These amendment regulations propose a definition of foods with high content of fat, sugar and salt (HFSS Food) and also front-of- pack labelling of packaged foods (except for certain foods for which exemptions have been provided) with an Indian Nutrition Rating (INR).

The existing food labelling system does not allow to falsely project food articles as 'healthy'. In this regard, FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018 to establish fairness in claims and advertisements of food products

and make food businesses accountable for such claims /advertisements. It is specified under these regulations that ‘Foods shall not be described as “healthy” or be represented in a manner that implies that a food in and of itself will impart health’ and ‘Claims must be truthful, unambiguous, meaningful, not misleading and help consumers to comprehend the information provided’.

Further, Section 23 and Section 24 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 provides that no claim and advertisement shall be made of any food which is misleading or deceiving or contravenes the provisions of this Act, the rules and regulations made thereunder. Any contravention in the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the rules and regulations made thereunder by the Food Business Operators is a punishable offence.
