

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3481
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1ST APRIL, 2025**

VIOLATION OF RULES REGARDING THE LABELLING OF EXPIRY DATES

3481 # SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:

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

- (a) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has laid down any rules regarding the labelling of expiry dates on everyday food items and other products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said rules are being blatantly violated by various companies; and
- (d) the details of actions being taken against such companies?

**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) has notified Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020. These regulations mandates the following:

- Declaration of “Date of manufacture or packaging” and “Expiry/Use by” on the label of the product. Further “Best before” may also be used as optional or additional information.
- The 'date of manufacture' and ‘Use by Date or Expiry Date’ may not be required to be mentioned on the package having surface area of less than thirty square centimetres but this information shall be given on the multi-unit packages.
- In case of food with shelf-life of not more than seven days, the 'date of manufacture' may not be required to be mentioned on the label of packaged food articles, but the 'Expiry/use by' shall be mentioned on the label by the manufacturer or packer.

(c) & (d): Food Business Operators are mandated to comply to Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020. FSSAI through its regional offices and State/ Union Territories conducts regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection, and random sampling of food products. In cases where food samples are found to be non- conforming (including in labelling defects), penal action is taken against the defaulting Food Business Operators as per the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, Rules and Regulations. As per the reports by the States/ UTs and regional offices of FSSAI, details of samples analysed, found non-conforming (including in labelling defects) and penal action taken during last 4 years are as below:-

Year	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	No. of Civil Cases launched	No. of Criminal Cases launched
2020-21	1,07,829	28,347	24,195	3,869
2021-22	1,44,345	32,934	28,906	4,946
2022-23	1,77,511	44,626	38,053	4,817
2023-24	1,70,513	33,808	33,750	4,737
