

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.905
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th FEBRUARY, 2025**

INCREASE IN FOOD ADULTERATION

905. SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that food adulteration has rapidly increased in the country, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the punitive action taken by Government to stop such illegal activities;
- (c) the role of FSSAI in monitoring food adulteration and challenges faced by it; and
- (d) the details of certification process followed by FSSAI and whether there is any need to revisit it?

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

(a) to (c): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (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, penal action is taken against the defaulting Food Business Operators as per the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, Rules and Regulations. Further, to extend reach of basic testing facilities even in remote areas, FSSAI has provided mobile food testing labs called Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs). FSSAI also conducts periodic Pan-India Surveillance of food products especially on staple foods and commodities that are prone to adulteration.

FSSAI has also established mechanisms for receiving and addressing complaints related to food adulteration. Consumers can lodge complaints through the FSSAI helpline, or Food Safety Connect mobile app, which are promptly investigated and acted upon as per FSS

Act, Rules and Regulations. Further, FSSAI has launched various campaigns to raise consumer awareness about food adulteration.

Details of samples analysed, found non conforming 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 |

(d) As per the FSS Act 2006, no person can commence a food business without holding a license under the Act. Accordingly, petty food businesses such as petty retailers, hawkers, itinerant vendors or temporary stall holders, etc with a turnover of less than 12 lakhs per annum have to take a registration certificate before starting any food business whereas food businesses having an annual turnover of more than 12 lakh need FSSAI license.

A Food Business Operator (FBO) submits an online application through the FoSCoS portal, providing necessary documents, undergoing an inspection by FSSAI officials at their premises, and upon approval, receiving a registration certificate or license depending on their business type and turnover.

FSSAI regularly reviews the certification process and improves it based on the stakeholder feedback.

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