

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1069  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025**

**PERSISTING FOOD ADULTERATION**

**1069 SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:**

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

- (a) whether the Ministry can clarify that, despite repeated reports of food adulteration, the problem continues to persist year after year across multiple States;
- (b) if so, the reasons as to why existing regulatory frameworks, inspections and penalties under FSSAI failed to eliminate or substantially reduce adulteration, despite public awareness and technological advances;
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry evaluates the effectiveness of its current surveillance mechanisms, including routine food-safety audits, mystery shopping and food-adulteration hotlines, in preventing repeated violations; and
- (d) whether the Ministry plans to implement any reforms or policy changes to strengthen enforcement?

**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 articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

The implementation and enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments. While FSSAI is responsible for laying down science-based standards and ensuring overall coordination, the State Food Safety Authorities are primarily responsible for enforcement at the field level.

To ensure compliance with the set standards, limits, & other statutory requirements under the Act and Food Safety & Standards Regulations (FSSR), FSSAI and its four regional offices, through State/UT food safety authorities conducts regular localized/targeted special enforcement including inspections, sampling activities and surveillance drive. Further, annual mandatory inspections are conducted for High-risk food category and Third-Party Audits have also been mandated for Food Business Operators (FBOs) dealing in high-risk food categories.

To deal with the consumer grievances received through Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) concerned Designated Officers (DOs), Food Safety Officers (FSOs), and the respective FBOs are provided online access to the details for timely resolution. In cases where any deviation from the prescribed standards or violation of the FSSR is detected, appropriate regulatory action has been taken against the defaulting FBOs.

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