

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1903
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16TH DECEMBER, 2025**

SALE OF ORS DRINKS

1903 SMT. SAGARIKA GHOSE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the widespread distribution and sale of 'ORS' drinks, which did not meet the World Health Organization's standards for oral rehydration solutions;
- (b) the number of cases in the last five years that saw adverse reactions after the consumption of the mislabelled ORS;
- (c) the reasons for permitting the use of 'ORS' in brand names and trademarks prior to October 2025 that did not meet necessary standards; and
- (d) whether any action is underway to recall all units of such mislabelled products, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d): The Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in exercise of its regulatory oversight, has issued directions to all the Food Business Operators (FBO) for removal of such brand name / product name containing word “Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS)” with immediate effect from all distribution channels, along with from e-commerce platforms.

In pursuance to this, directions have also been issued on 14.10.2025 to all the enforcement authorities in States/UTs & regional office of FSSAI, wherein Commissioners of Food Safety of all States/UTs and Central Licensing Authorities were advised to initiate

regulatory action against such FBOs and against misleading food labels using the term “ORS” on non-carbonated water-based beverages/ Fruit based beverages/ Ready to serve/drink beverages, in accordance with the provisions of the FSS Act, 2006 and relevant regulations.

Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 imposes restrictions on unfair trade practices, including the prohibition of misleading advertisements and claims. Further, FSSAI has also notified the Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulation, 2018, to address issues related to misleading claims, labelling and advertisements. It ensures that food-related advertisements and claims are accurate, non-deceptive, and align with food safety standards. It is the responsibility of the food business to adhere with these requirements. Any contravention of these regulations may lead to appropriate actions in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and its subsequent regulations made thereafter.

FSSAI has initiated action against the defaulting Food Business Operators (FBOs) across various States/UTs. As on 11.12.2025, a total of 75 notices including improvement notices, suspension orders, and show-cause notices have been issued to such FBOs.
