

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1235
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th FEBRUARY, 2026**

**DISPOSAL OF UNSAFE FOOD PRODUCTS DETECTED BY FOOD SAFETY
AUTHORITIES**

1235. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of recent enforcement actions by food safety authorities involving detection and confiscation of adulterated, contaminated or unsafe food products;
- (b) the procedure followed in detection, including sampling, laboratory testing, re-testing (if any) and final determination of food items as unsafe or unfit for consumption;
- (c) the mechanism for custody and secure storage of such food items once declared unsafe and the authorities responsible for their supervision during this period; and
- (d) the process adopted for disposal or destruction of unsafe food products, including the agencies involved and safeguards to ensure environmental and public health safety?

**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 (FSS) Act, 2006 is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments.

FSSAI through its regional offices and States/UTs food safety departments, conducts surveillance, inspection, monitoring and random sampling to check & verify compliance with the standards & requirements laid down under the FSS Act, 2006 & regulations made thereunder. 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.

Enforcement actions such as inspection, sampling, seizure, testing etc. are done as per the provisions laid down under FSS Act, 2006 and rules and regulations made thereunder. FSSAI has issued advisories from time to time, including guidelines on environmentally compliant disposal of seized, rejected and expired food items. These guidelines outline procedures for safe and environment friendly disposal, such as incineration at authorized incinerators, disposal at designated sanitary landfills, and composting of biodegradable waste at certified facilities. All such disposal shall be carried out under the strict supervision of the competent authority. Further, disposal of seized, rejected or expired food items, including their packaging, into rivers, lakes, natural water bodies or open lands is strictly prohibited under any circumstances.
