

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2811
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th MARCH, 2026**

**PREVENTION OF ADULTERATION IN ESSENTIAL FOOD ITEMS FOR
CHILDREN**

2811 # SMT. DHARMSHILA GUPTA:

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

(a) whether Government has taken cognizance of the rise in adulteration in infant formula, baby milk powder, milk, fruits and vegetables and other essential food items for children, if

so, the details of the cases reported in the country particularly in the State of Bihar over the past three years;

(b) whether specific standards have been set to ensure the quality of food products intended for children; and

(c) the strict punitive and monitoring measures taken by Government to prevent the manufacture and sale of adulterated food items to safeguard children's health?

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) 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.

While the 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.

FSSAI has laid down science based standards for all articles of food including infant formula, baby milk powder, milk, fruits and vegetables and other essential food items including the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020 for different categories of Infant food and formulae. These standards are uniform across the country. Details of enforcement activity for the last 3 years for all the food products including infant formula, baby milk powder, milk, fruits and vegetables and other essential commodities are as under:-

Year	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
			Decided with penalty	No. of Convictions
2024-25	170535	34388	30142	1265
2023-24	170513	33808	29586	1161
2022-23	177511	44626	28464	1188

Further, last 3 years details of the state of Bihar is as under:-

Year	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
			Decided with penalty	No. of Convictions
2024-25	2863	124	25	0
2023-24	2806	126	79	0
2022-23	2935	92	39	0
