

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3652
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th MARCH, 2026**

ADULTERATION OF CONSUMER ITEMS

3652. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether unchecked sale of adulterated consumer items is rampant all over the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to curb the menace of adulterated consumer items including improving the monitoring mechanism by strengthening the capacity of the enforcement machinery;
- (c) whether there is shortage of manpower within Food Safety and Standards Authority of India; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

**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.

Surveillance drives, monitoring, regulatory inspection and random sampling of various food products are conducted throughout the year by the officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/ UTs and Regional offices of FSSAI to check compliance with the quality and safety parameters in food products as laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and Regulations made thereunder. If any violations are observed, strict regulatory actions have been enforced against the offenders in accordance with the provisions of FSS Act. Details of number of Food Samples tested for last 5 Years are as follows:

Year	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found non-conforming
2024-25	1,70,535	34,388
2023-24	1,70,513	33,808
2022-23	1,77,511	44,626
2021-22	1,44,345	32,934
2020-21	1,07,829	28,347

FSSAI has developed Risk Based Inspection System (RBIS) where frequency of inspection is decided based on risk associated with Food businesses and issued guidelines including the Annual inspections for all food categories identified as high risk. In last three years FSSAI conducted a total of 56,269 Risk Based Inspections.

FSSAI has established a network of food testing laboratories across India for the analysis of food to ensure the compliance with the quality and safety standards. As on date, there are 252 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) notified for analysis of food samples and 24 Referral Food Laboratories for the analysis of appellate samples.

To strengthen the food testing infrastructure in States & UTs, FSSAI has provided technical & financial assistance to the States/UTs under the scheme - "Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country Including provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs" (SoFTeL). Under the Scheme, 47 State food testing laboratories have been upgraded & 34 microbiology labs have been set up in the area of food safety & quality parameters. To bridge the gap in testing capabilities and extend outreach for on-the-spot food testing in the remote areas, where the laboratory infrastructures are lacking, State/UTs have deployed Mobile Food Testing Laboratories (MFTLs). So far, 305 MFTLs have been procured & deployed by States/UTs against the funds provided by FSSAI for 541 MFTLs.

As on 01.01.2026, 320 posts were vacant against the sanctioned strength of 822 in FSSAI. In the States/UTs, 2997 Food Safety Officers are working against 4208 sanctioned posts and 668 Designated Officers are working against 718 sanctioned posts.
