

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 438
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3rd FEBRUARY, 2026**

INEFFECTIVE EFFORTS TOWARDS ADULTERATION

438. DR. LAXMIKANT BAJPAYEE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that despite the efforts of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the cases of food adulteration are neither decreasing nor coming to an end in the country;
- (b) whether Government is aware that artificial induction of ripening in fruits and vegetables using chemical agents has increased drastically in the recent years, which is badly harming the health of masses;
- (c) the mechanism, modus operandi and method of detection Government is using for controlling this illegal and hazardous activity; and
- (d) the cases of such activities of artificial ripening detected in the last five years and the action taken thereon?

**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.

As per Section 31 of Food Safety and Standards Act (FSS), 2006, no person shall commence or carry out any food business activity except under a license or registration. Accordingly, all Food Business Operators (FBOs) are required to obtain FSSAI License or Registration as per their eligibility before commencement of food business and is bound to adhere to the general requirements on hygiene and sanitary practices laid down under

Schedule 4 of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, failing which, FBO is liable for enforcement action as per FSS Act, 2006. State Food authorities being committed to ensure the availability of safe food products to the consumers across the country, conducts regular surveillance drives, monitoring, regulatory inspection and random sampling of various food products throughout the year to check compliance with the quality and safety parameters including the cases of adulteration.

Further, Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 prohibits use of carbide gas in ripening of fruits which states that *No person shall sell or offer or expose for sale or have in his premises for the purpose of sale under any description, fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas.*

In the event of any violations, strict regulatory actions are enforced against the offenders in accordance with the provisions of the FSS Act, 2006.

FSSAI has issued an advisory to all Commissioners of Food Safety of States/UTs and its Regional Offices to intensify inspections and maintain strict vigilance over fruit markets/mandis within their respective jurisdictions. The advisory also instructed them to undertake special enforcement drives to curb the illegal use of calcium carbide and other non-permitted ripening agents.

FSSAI through State Food Authorities deploys mobile food testing labs (Food Safety on Wheels) for on-the-spot analysis of food products. Digital tools like FoSCoRIS (Food Safety Compliance through Regular Inspection and Sampling) and INFoLNET help track violations and maintain real-time data on inspections and compliance. Details of inspections, seizure made & regulatory action during last 5 years are as under:-

Year	Inspections conducted over the past five years to detect the use of artificial ripening agents in fruits	Samples analysed	Non-conforming samples (found artificially ripened with non-permitted agents)	Seizures/destinations made (in kgs)
2020-21	10032	479	10	5037.6
2021-22	11217	352	31	8428.6
2022-23	14185	704	9	10182
2023-24	17180	1450	45	19582.2
2024-25	20365	1953	54	42395.46

***Note- The details are as per data received from 25 States.**