

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1789
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04th AUGUST, 2026**

EXPIRED AND ROTTEN FOOD PRODUCTS

1789 # SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that cases involving foreign-owned quick-commerce platforms such as Swiggy and Instamart selling expired or rotten food products has come to light;
- (b) if so, the number of foreign-owned companies against whom action has been taken over the last three years due to quality issues in their food products; and
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to determine the extent to which the selling of poor-quality food products in the market adversely affects public 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.

To regulate online marketing companies engaged in selling food items, FSSAI specified procedures for the licensing and registration of e-commerce business operators along with their responsibilities. Accordingly, e-commerce FBOs are required that all listed sellers are licensed/registered, provide mandatory food labelling, minimum shelf life, train delivery personnel, avoid misleading claims and delist non-compliant products. Additionally,

they must also maintain hygiene standards, facilitate sampling and promptly address consumer complaints.

FSSAI has taken cognizance of multiple consumer complaints regarding the delivery of allegedly spoiled, expired, rotten, and contaminated food products through e-commerce platforms. Accordingly, notices have been issued to various e-commerce platforms, including Swiggy, Swiggy Instamart, Amazon, and Flipkart, directing them to take necessary corrective measures for compliance with the provisions of the FSS Act, 2006, rules and the regulations made thereunder.

FSSAI has also specified General Hygienic and Sanitary Practices to be followed by Licensed/Registered FBOs under Schedule 4 of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 which is applicable to food businesses involved in storage activity.

Enforcement action taken against non-compliant Food Business Operators (FBOs) in the last 3 years is as under:-

Enforcement action taken for all non-conforming foods products (including the cases involving storage or sale of expired, spoiled, Labelling defects/Misbranded/Misleading claims) in the last four years				
Year	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
			Decided with Penalty	No. of Convictions
2025-26*	223,808	40023	31878	1918
2024-25	170535	34388	30142	1265
2023-24	170513	33808	29586	1161

**Note- The data for FY 202526 is provisional as on 31.03.2026 and subject to revision.*

FSSAI vide advisories dated 3rd December 2024 & 23rd July 2026 had directed all e-commerce FBOs for strict compliance with the labelling and display requirements prescribed under the FSS Act, 2006 and the rules and regulations made thereunder.
