

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2649
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11th AUGUST, 2026**

STRENGTHENING THE PROVISIONS UNDER FSSAI

2649. SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has taken note of misleading front-of-pack claims made by food business operators regarding the nutritional or health attributes of packaged food products;
- (b) whether Government has strengthened the provisions under the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 and other regulations to prevent and penalise misleading front-of-pack claims and the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of action taken by FSSAI during the last three years against such violations, including the names of defaulting food business operators, nature of violations and penalties imposed?

**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 prevent misleading claims by the Food Business Operators (FBOs), FSSAI has notified Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 which mandates that:-

- Every pre-packaged food shall be labelled with information as required under these regulations unless otherwise provided.

- When a food product is sold through e-commerce or any other direct selling means, the mandatory requirements of the label shall be provided to the consumers.
- Pre-packaged food shall not be described or presented on any label or in any labelling in a manner that is false, misleading or deceptive or is likely to create an erroneous impression regarding its character in any respect;
- Mandatorily declare nutritional information including Total fat, Added sugars, Total Sugars, Carbohydrate, protein, Energy and sodium content per 100 g, 100 ml, or per single consumption pack, along with the per-serve percentage contribution to the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) is required to be declared on the product label.

To regulate advertisements and claims made on the food packages, FSSAI has also notified Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018 which stipulates that:-

- Advertisements and claims shall not undermine the importance of healthy lifestyles and no advertisement shall be made for food products which is deceptive to the consumers along with other provisions under the regulations.
- Advertisements for food or beverages shall not be promoted or portrayed as a meal replacement unless otherwise specifically permitted as a meal replacement under any other Regulations made under FSS Act, 2006.
- Schedule V stipulates specific conditions for the use of claims such as "Natural", "Fresh", "Traditional", "Original" on food labels. Such claims may only be used when the prescribed conditions are fulfilled under the above Regulations.
- Foods shall not be described as "healthy" or be represented in a manner that implies that a food in and of itself will impart health.
- No claims shall be made which refer to the suitability of the food for use in the prevention, alleviation, treatment or cure of a disease, disorder or particular physiological condition unless specifically permitted under any other regulations made under FSS Act, 2006.
- There shall not appear in the label of any package, containing food for sale the words "recommended by the medical or nutrition or health professionals" or any words which imply or suggest that the food is recommended, prescribed, or approved by medical practitioners or approved for medical purpose.

Any deviation from the prescribed standards or violation of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Regulation (FSSR), when detected, results in stringent regulatory and punitive action against the non-compliant FBOs in accordance with the FSS Act, 2006 and the rules framed thereunder, including suspension & cancellation of licence, prohibition on sale, seizure & destruction of non-compliant food articles and judicial action through adjudication (civil) and prosecution (criminal) as per the provisions outlined in Chapter IX (Offences and Penalties) of FSS Act, 2006.

During FY 2026–27, FSSAI has issued 87 notices to FBOs for misleading claims and advertisements found to be in violation of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018. Details of enforcement action taken for all non-conforming foods products (including for Labelling defects/Misbranded/Misleading claims) by State/UTs in the last three years is as under:-

Details of Enforcement for last three Years including Labelling defects / Misleading claims						
Year	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	Civil Cases		Criminal Cases	
			Decided with Penalty	Penalties Raised (Cr Rs.)	No. of Convictions	Penalties Raised (Cr Rs.)
* 2025-26	223,808	40023	31878	109.11	1918	5.70
2024-25	170535	34388	30142	35.74	1265	3.03
2023-24	170513	33808	29586	74.12	1161	2.67

*The data for FY 2025–26 is provisional.
