

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4918  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER,**

**HARMFUL CHEMICALS IN THE FOOD ITEMS**

**4918. SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI:  
SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:**

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

- (a) whether the use of poisonous and harmful chemicals in the food items is becoming a cause of diseases and deaths across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such cases which came to light during each of the last three years including the current year, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) the details of legal provision in place for checking the use of poisonous/harmful chemicals in production of food items and sale thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to take action against those who violate these provisions and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

(a) & (b): Some reports have, in the past, appeared in the media about the use of poisonous and harmful chemicals in food production. However, specific details of the use of such substances in food production and the diseases and deaths caused due to their use is not complied and maintained centrally.

(c): Safety parameters of food products are prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. The tolerance limit for toxic elements, pesticide residue and heavy metals in food products are prescribed in the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011. Penal provisions relating to unsafe food are specified in Chapter IX of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

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(d) & (e): Enforcement of the provisions of the FSS Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations thereunder, primarily rests with the State/UT Governments. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of all food items is undertaken by the State Food Safety Officials. In cases, where samples are found to be non-conforming to the provisions of the Act and Regulations thereunder, recourse is taken to the penal provisions under Chapter IX of the Act. As per information made available by State/UT Governments, details of action taken against violators of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations thereunder during the last three years, is as under:

Year	No. of cases Launched		No. of Convictions/Penalties	
	Criminal	Civil	Convictions	Penalties
2013-14	3105	7130	913	2950
2014-15	2687	7988	1402	2795
2015-16	1656	8196	516	3483

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