

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1023
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST JULY, 2017**

FOOD WITH ORGANIC LABELS

**1023. DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU:
DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any rules or guidelines for the standardization, testing and certification of organic food items being sold in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Ministry has received any complaints on food and food products being sold with Organic Labels, if so, the number and details thereof of such complaints received during the last two years;
- (c) whether the Ministry has any mechanism to certify organic produce and organic food products being sold in urban areas, if so, the details thereof including certifications given by the regulator in the last two years; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure safety and genuineness of the organic products being sold in the market?

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

(a): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the nodal agency to regulate and monitor the manufacture, processing, distribution, sale and import of food, has notified the draft Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017 in the Gazette of India on 19.06.2017 and placed the draft regulations on its website on 22.06.2017 for inviting objections or suggestions from the persons likely to be affected thereby, within 30 days.

(b): The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations thereunder primarily rests with the State/UT Governments. No separate data in respect of food and food products being sold with Organic labels is maintained centrally by FSSAI.

(c): Certification of organic produce is not done by FSSAI.

(d): Draft Food Safety and Standards (Organic Foods) Regulations, 2017 provide for Organic Food to comply with the standards of National Programme on Organic Production (NPOP) or Participatory Guarantee System (PGS-India) which cover the aspects related to certification of organic food items ensuring genuineness of the organic products being sold in the market.