

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1393
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th FEBRUARY, 2023**

FOOD QUALITY IN SMALLER CITIES

1393. DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:

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

- (a) whether the majority of packaged/processed foods are unhealthy by nutritional standards and carry long-term risks of chronic illnesses and diseases and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government intends to set a minimum nutritional standard for the said food products and if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether most of the foods available in the shops in smaller cities and towns are not of good quality and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study on the monitoring of the quality of food in shops and nutritional quality in smaller cities and towns and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the standards laid down to maintain the food quality index in small stores?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (e): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that, all food articles, including packaged/processed foods, have to conform to the prescribed quality and safety standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules & Regulations. FSSAI has notified Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 prescribing requirements for labelling of packaged food. The Regulation requires display of nutrients and their contribution to Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) in percentage at the back of the pack as Nutritional Information to enable consumers to make informed choice. It is mandatory for Food Business Operators (FBOs) to label the food package in accordance with these Regulations.

Food Safety Officials of States/UTs carry out regular enforcement action, including in Shops and small stores in smaller cities/ towns, by way of surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products to ensure that the food products conform to the prescribed standards including quality and minimum nutritional standard for that particular product. In cases of non-conformance, action is taken under penal provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

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