

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2087
ANSWERED ON 14.03.2023

MUSHROOMING PROCESSED FOOD ITEMS

2087. SHRIMATI SARMISTHA SETHI:

Will the Minister of **FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of mushrooming of processed food items in market which are not of good standard and or being sold misleadingly as organically processed foods;
- (b) if so, the steps that have been taken by the Government to ensure availability of good quality of processed food to consumers;
- (c) whether any standard criteria has been developed by the Government so far as marketing of processed food items are concerned; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which was established under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as per provisions contained in Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 (i.e. FSS Act 2006), has been mandated for laying 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.

As per the FSSAI, for organic food items, the sellers and manufacturers of organic food products have to comply with Food Safety and Standards (Organic Food) Regulations, 2017. As per this regulation, the organic food shall comply with all the applicable provisions of one of the two certification systems namely – (i) National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP); and (ii) Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS-India). Further, the labelling on the package of organic food shall convey full and accurate information on the organic status of the product. Such product may carry a certification or quality assurance mark of NPOP or PGS-India in addition to the FSSAI's organic logo "Jaivik Bharat".

Regular enforcement drives are also undertaken by FSSAI and State Food Authorities by drawing food samples including processed foods to take strict action against the offenders under the Provisions of the FSS Act, 2006.

(b) In order to ensure the availability of safe food products including processed food items to the consumers, the Regional Directors of FSSAI along with Food Safety Commissioner of States/UTs have been advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil by regularly drawing food samples and to take strict action against the offenders under the provisions of FSS Act, 2006. In cases, where the samples are found to be non-conforming to the laid down provisions of FSS Act 2006, Rules and regulations made thereunder, penal action has been initiated against the defaulting Food Business Operators (FBOs) as per the provisions of FSS Act 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

(c) & (d): Under FSS Act 2006, the FSSAI develop science based standards for articles of food/food products including processed foods for compliance by FBOs and to ensure availability of safe food for human consumption.
