

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4009
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th MARCH, 2023**

NATIONAL MILK SAFETY STANDARDS

4009. SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government has decided to come out with new National Milk Safety Standards in the country in view of the increasing incidents of milk adulteration;
- (b) if so, the details of the new safety standards that the Government has unveiled; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that adulterated milk is not available in the country?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE**

(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) to (c): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was established in 2008 under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 primarily 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.

FSSAI has established internationally benchmarked standards and practices for milk and milk products largely harmonized with the Codex Alimentarius. These standards for milk and milk products specified in Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 include description, composition, quality factors, hygiene requirements, permitted food additives, specific labelling requirements and microbiological standards that provide a scientific basis for ensuring safety, quality and integrity of milk and milk products. These standards are reviewed and revised, if required.

Implementation and enforcement of these standards primarily lies with the State/UT Governments. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and sampling of food products from all sources i.e. manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, transporters, retail markets etc. are carried out by Food Safety Officers of States/UTs and in cases of non-compliance, penal action is taken against the defaulting Food Business Operators (FBOs) as per the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Rules and Regulations.

In order to address the gaps in the food safety eco-system of States/UTs and to ensure safe and wholesome food through pooling of technical knowledge and best practices as a shared responsibility, FSSAI has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with States/UTs to extend both technical and financial support to the States/UT Governments. FSSAI has extended financial support to States/UTs under a Central Sector Scheme for strengthening of food testing infrastructure. FSSAI has regularly urged States/UTs to carry out targeted enforcement and surveillance drive to check adulteration in food products. For on the spot testing of adulterants in milk and milk products particularly in remote areas, mobile food testing laboratories equipped with rapid milk analyser have been provided to the States/UTs.

FSSAI has set up Food Safety Training & Certification (FoSTaC) ecosystem for widespread and effective delivery of food safety training to food businesses including dairy businesses across the value chain.

To check on the problem of milk adulteration in the country, FSSAI has advised the food safety authorities in States/ UTs to maintain a strict vigil on milk chilling units, intensify surveillance during festive seasons, follow a policy of periodic transfers in respect of FSOs and generate local intelligence regarding the malpractices and strengthen testing and enforcement infrastructure both physical as well as human.

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