

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2169
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.08.2023

FOOD ADULTERATION

2169. SHRI SRIDHAR KOTAGIRI: SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN SHEJWALKAR:

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**
उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of food adulteration cases in the country in the last five years;
- (b) the number of entities against whom action was taken for food adulteration;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps/ issued any directions to reduce the incidence of food adulteration in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve consumer awareness with respect to food adulteration; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री अश्विनी कुमार चौबे)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b) : Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) through States/UTs and its regional offices conducts regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products to check compliance of the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder. In cases where the food samples are found to be non-conforming, penal action is initiated against the defaulting Food Business Operators as per provisions of FSS Act, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

Based on information made available by the States/UTs, details of various kinds of food samples collected, analyzed, found non-conforming and action taken in the last five years is **annexed**.

(c) & (d) : FSSAI has developed a pan-India surveillance system that helps to collect the data regarding the safety and quality of food and to ensure that the food supplied in the market is safe and wholesome. The aim of such surveillance activities to identify hotspots of food safety non-compliances and adulteration.

FSSAI carried out surveillance activities pan-India of various commodities as under:

1. National Milk Survey 2016.
2. National Milk Quality Survey 2018.
3. Milk and Milk Products Survey 2020.
4. Edible Oils Survey 2020.
5. PAN India Food Survey 2021 - For Trans-fat & Acrylamide Content.
6. National Milk Survey 2022.
7. Jaggery Surveillance 2022.

In the said surveys the possible adulterants in the commodity were tested and reported. In all the surveillance activities, efforts were made to ascertain the degree of adulteration to identify hotspots (regions) predominant in food adulteration, in addition to ensuring compliance with the quality & safety parameters. Post pan-India Surveillance activities, the State wise non-compliance data are shared with concerned States/UT's to initiate the regulatory sampling and taken penal action, wherever necessary. The reports of such surveillance activities are available in the public domain, www.fssai.gov.in.

(e) & (f) : FSSAI has taken many steps to improve consumer awareness with respect to food adulteration. The steps are as follows;

- (i) FSSAI through its YouTube channel has created a dedicated playlist **How to check for adulteration** containing 76 short videos for checking adulteration. These videos are being uploaded on Social Media (Twitter, Instagram, Facebook) on regular basis.
- (ii) FSSAI has taken out a manual named DART (Detecting Adulterants with Rapid Testing). This manual is a compilation of some common adulterants and contaminants that can be tested by citizens themselves. It covers common adulterants in food products such as Oils & Fats, Sweetening Agents, Food Grains & their products, Pulses, Spices, Salt, Tea, Coffee, artificial and toxic colours, extraneous matters in food, added deliberately or otherwise. The scope and main aim of this manual is to create awareness in consumers about food adulteration detection methodology for use at household level too. This has been disseminated through social media and uploaded on the FSSAI website also for general information of the public.
- (iii) Awareness through Exhibitions/Melas/Outreach activities at various events like AAHAR International Food & Hospitality Fair/ Indus Food / India International Trade Fair/ International Dairy Federation World Dairy Summit 2022/ Mega Expo & Science Book Fair 2022 etc. Stall have been placed in these exhibitions where awareness through live demonstration of detecting adulteration through Magic Box was put into display for general public.
- (iv) Food Safety On Wheels (FSW): FSSAI has introduced mobile food testing vans called Food Safety on Wheels (FSW) to reach remote areas and conduct training and awareness activities as well. These mobile units are well equipped mobile food testing labs for conducting simple tests for common adulterants in milk, water, edible oil and other items of food of daily consumption. These FSWs are placed in different Exhibitions.
- (v) Food Safety Guidebook for Teachers/Students: The lesson plan booklet provides with the detailed information of how to conduct the different test on food adulteration. These tests are mapped across the curriculum of the particular grade. These lesson plans are effective way to enhance the students learning. These books are available for free in eBook format and can be easily downloaded at <https://eatrightindia.gov.in/eatrightschool/learning-books>.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) and (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2169 FOR 02.08.2022 REGARDING FOOD ADULTERATION.

Details of various kinds of food samples collected, analyzed, found non-conforming and action taken in the last five years:

Year	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	Civil Cases			Criminal Cases		
			No. of Cases launched	No. of Cases decided	No. of Convictions	No. of Cases Launched	No. of Cases decided	No. of Convictions
2018-19	1,06,459	30,415	18,550	NA	12,734	2,813	NA	701
2019-20	1,18,775	29,589	27,412	18,192	17,345	4681	828	780
2020-21	1,07,829	28347	24,195	15,878	14,817	3869	520	506
2021-22	1,44,345	32,934	28,906	NA	19,437	4,946	NA	671
2022-23	1,72,687	44,421	38,053	NA	27,053	4,817	NA	1133
