

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3007  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2019**

**INCIDENCE OF FOOD CONTAMINATION**

**3007. SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM:**

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

- (a) whether it is true that as per a report by the Foundation for Millennium Sustainable Development Goals and Thought Arbitrage, the total direct cost due to food and water borne diseases in India was estimated to be Rs. 7.3 lakh crore in 2016-17 and could touch Rs. 9.5 lakh crore mark by 2022 and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the causes of high incidence of food contamination and the diseases emanating from it; and
- (c) the steps taken to ensure food safety in India?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a): Foundation for Millennium Sustainable Development Goals and Thought Arbitrage are private organizations and Government of India is neither aware nor party to the report.

(b): Food contamination can occur due to several factors. Certain contaminants like pesticide and antibiotic residues above maximum residue levels (MRLs) are caused by irresponsible farming practices. Feed and fodder given to animals or weeds are responsible for certain other contaminants like Aflatoxin M1. Chemical contamination, including heavy metals, can come from soil, environmental pollution etc. Growth of contaminants like bacteria, viruses and moulds are caused by unhygienic conditions and non- storage of food at right temperature.

Food contaminants are responsible for a number of food borne illnesses like stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea and even long term health problems like neurological disorders etc.

(c): To ensure food safety, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has developed over 500 food product standards, reviewed and expanded standards for food additives that now has over 9000 provisos covering 350 additives and food processing aids by harmonizing the standards of food additives with Codex Standards. FSSAI has also put in place a mechanism for approval of products which are not covered in the existing regulations.

FSSAI has established a robust food testing infrastructure across India by notifying adequate number of food testing laboratories. FSSAI has also provided assistance under a Central Sector Scheme for strengthening of State Food Testing Labs. It is promoting self-testing by consumers through simple tests which can be conducted at home through 'Detect Adulteration with Rapid Test' (DART) booklet which is available on website. FSSAI has announced a policy for adoption of Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAFT) Kit/Equipment/Method for regulatory purpose (either on field, in laboratory or both) which includes kits for analysis of milk including adulterations.

FSSAI has revamped inspection system by introducing risk based sampling and digital inspection called Food Safety Compliance through Regular Inspections and Sampling (FoSCoRIS).

FSSAI has reviewed and adopted revised hygiene and sanitary requirements for various categories of food businesses. FSSAI is also providing training under Food Safety Training and Capacity Building (FoSTaC) programme to food safety supervisors of food establishments regarding hygiene and sanitary requirements to be observed in these establishments. More than 2.2 lakh food safety supervisors/food handlers have already been trained.

FSSAI has notified Food Safety and Standards (Food Safety Audit) Regulations, 2018 and has empanelled 24 audit agencies so far for conducting food safety audit of food establishments. Food Safety Audit of Central establishments dealing with identified 6 High Risk categories of food products has been made mandatory.

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