

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1142
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD DECEMBER, 2021**

QUALITY OF PACKAGED/PROCESSED FOODS

1142. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:

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, carrying long-term risks of chronic illnesses;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government intends to set a minimum nutritional standard for said food products to reduce the induced burden on health facilities and enhance diet quality of consumers; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a to d): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that all packaged/processed foods have to conform to prescribed standards as in Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules & Regulations made thereunder.

FSSAI has set up internationally benchmarked standards for various categories of food products under various Regulations which are largely harmonised with the Codex. FSSAI has also prescribed maximum limits of heavy metals, residues of pesticides and antibiotics/veterinary drugs etc. The standards provide scientific basis for ensuring safety, quality and integrity of food products. These are available at <https://www.fssai.gov.in/> The standards are reviewed and updated periodically.

Majority of packaged/processed foods are having minimum standards and these are mandatory. Every FBO has to meet the minimum required standards set for the particular food product. Detailed nutritional information has to be declared on the back of pack of such food products. FSSAI has also notified that trans-fat in oils and fats shall not be more than 2% by weight and in respect of food products, not more than 2% by weight of oil and fat present in the food product. This limit is applicable from 1.1.2022. FSSAI has also nudged food businesses by encouraging them to reformulate packaged foods into healthier options. There are notable social behavioural change initiatives taken by FSSAI promote safe, healthy and sustainable diets. To improve nutritional quotient and fight malnutrition, FSSAI promotes food fortification through notification of regulations and undertakes advocacy for promotion of fortified food in Govt. food safety net programmes and in open market.

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