

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4980  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL, 2022**

**ANTIBIOTIC RESIDUE IN MILK**

**4980. SHRI BRIJENDRA SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has reported excessive antibiotic residue in milk products, indicating overuse of antibiotics and lack of veterinary consultations, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the antibiotic residue in the milk is due to recommendations made by the Government to use antibiotics for bovine diseases such as mastitis related to mammary glands, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to examine the efficacy of plant based or herbal alternatives to said antibiotics to ensure that milk quality is not adversely impacted?

**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) has informed that it has specified the standards of milk under Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Further, the tolerance limits for various antibiotics and veterinary drugs in milk and other food products is specified in sub-regulation 2.3.2 of Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 and amendments thereof.

All Food Business Operators involved in processing and sale of milk are required to adhere to the specified Regulations. Implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 primarily lies with State/UT Governments. Commissioners of Food Safety of States/UTs conduct surveillance, sampling, inspection and enforcement drives through their food safety officials to ensure the quality and safety of milk and milk products conforms to specified standards.

FSSAI has recognized and notified 240 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited food testing laboratories across the country. Also, for on the spot testing of adulterants in milk and milk products, 173 mobile food testing laboratories equipped with rapid milk analyser have been sanctioned/ provided to the States/UTs.

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), Government of India has informed that it had issued an advisory to all States and Union Territories regarding the judicious use of antibiotic for treatment of ailing food producing animals. Further, it was also advised that use of antibiotics should be discouraged, if not essential and development, production and use of alternative antibiotic free growth promoters should be encouraged.

The National Milk Safety and Quality Survey, 2018 was conducted by FSSAI. The details of the survey are available on the website of FSSAI i.e [https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/press\\_release/2019/10/5da973ffaefcfPress\\_Release\\_Milk\\_Survey\\_Report\\_18\\_10\\_2019.pdf](https://www.fssai.gov.in/upload/press_release/2019/10/5da973ffaefcfPress_Release_Milk_Survey_Report_18_10_2019.pdf)