

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 168
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2ND AUGUST, 2024**

RISK OF HIGH-LEVELS OF CARCINOGENS IN PACKAGED FOODS

**†*168 SMT. JYOTSNA CHARANDAS MAHANT:
SHRI SUKHDEO BHAGAT:**

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

- (a) the details of any examination or quality check carried out by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on dairy products, spices and fortified rice;
- (b) whether any research has been conducted on the possibility of the increasing number of cancer patients in India being linked to carcinogens in packaged food items; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 168 FOR 2ND AUGUST, 2024**

(a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is fully committed to ensure the availability of safe food products to the consumers across the country. Towards this, FSSAI through State/UTs and its Regional Offices conducts regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of various food products including dairy products, spices and fortified rice, to check compliance with the quality and safety parameters and other requirements as laid down under Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006, and regulations made thereunder.

In cases of non-compliance to the statutory requirements as above, penal action is initiated against the defaulting FBOs as per the provisions laid down under the FSS Act. Further, FSSAI has conducted pan-India surveillances for milk and milk products in 2011, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2023. The report of Milk surveillance done by FSSAI in 2018, 2020 & 2022 is available in public domain at www.fssai.gov.in/cms/national-surveys.php. FSSAI has also asked the State/UTs to deploy the Food Safety on Wheels for screening/rapid testing of Milk and Milk products. FSSAI has conducted pan India Surveillance on spices in 2022.

FSSAI has laid down standards for Fortified Rice, Rice Flour for preparation of Fortified Rice Kernel, Fortified Rice Kernel, and Vitamin –Mineral Premix for Fortified Rice Kernel to achieve effective implementation of the National level Rice Fortification Program and to provide quality and safe fortified rice to the consumers. Also, FSSAI has launched a dedicated portal, FoRTRACE (Fortified Rice Traceability) portal for traceability purpose of rice fortification starting from manufacturing of premix to Fortified Rice production.

(b) & (c) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has not conducted any study on the possibility of the increasing number of cancer patients in India being linked to carcinogens in packaged food items.
