

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2604
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2024

SUGAR CONTENT IN BABY FOOD PRODUCTS

2604. SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the health risks of high sugar content in baby food products and if so, the findings thereof;
- (b) whether existing regulations on sugar content in baby products meet global standards and if so, the reasons for lack of strict enforcement;
- (c) whether steps are being taken to ensure clear labelling of sugar and other harmful additives in baby food; and
- (d) whether penalties or corrective measures have been introduced for manufacturers violating sugar content norms and if not, the reasons for the delay?

ANSWER

उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण राज्य मंत्री
(श्री बी.एल. वर्मा)

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B.L. VERMA)

(a) to (d) : FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020 which prescribes the standards for different categories of Infant food and formulae. The General requirements chapter - I 3(6) of the said regulation clearly specifies the preferred source of carbohydrates in food for Infant Nutrition. This provision is at par with Codex standards and other recognized global regulatory standards.

The sub-regulation 4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations, 2020 prescribes that the labelling of the food for infant nutrition shall be in accordance with the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 and the specific labelling requirements provided under these regulations wherein the sub-regulation 5(3)(b) of Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 prescribes the format for Nutritional Information shall be given on the label.

FSSAI has approved a proposal on 19.06.2024 to display nutritional information regarding Added Sugar, Salt and Saturated Fat in bold letters and relatively increased font size on labels of packaged food items. The amendment aims to empower consumers to better understand the nutritional value of the product they are consuming and make healthier decisions.

FSSAI (through its regional offices) & State/UT Food Safety Authorities conduct regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and sampling of food products including infant food products.

Food Business Operators (FBOs) have to comply with labelling requirements mandated under these regulations including limit of sugar content and specified food additives.

In cases, where non-compliance is detected, stringent action is initiated against the erring Food Business Operator (FBO) through penalties, imprisonment and product recall etc. as per provisions of FSS Act, Rules & Regulations.
