

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3006  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2024**

**HEALTH RATING FOR FOOD PRODUCTS**

**3006. SHRI GURMEET SINGH MEET HAYER:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to introduce a sugar tax to address health issues associated with high sugar consumption in view of countries like the UK and Mexico having implemented the same resulting in reduced consumption of sugary products and promoting healthier dietary calories, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is a proposal under consideration to implement such a tax or alternative measures to curb excessive sugar intake and promote public health and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not adopting such measures;
- (c) whether the Government plans to make health rating labels mandatory for ready-to-eat food products, similar to initiatives in other countries and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether these labels are likely to help consumers make informed dietary choices and align with public health objectives and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

**(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) & (b): Department of Revenue has informed that Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates are prescribed on the recommendations of the GST Council. There is no such proposal of sugar tax before the GST Council.

(c) & (d): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 prescribing requirements for labelling of packaged food. The Regulation requires display of nutrients and their contribution to Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) in percentage at the back of the pack

as Nutritional Information to enable consumers to make informed choice. It is mandatory for Food Business Operators (FBOs) to label the food package in accordance with these Regulations.

Further, FSSAI in September, 2022 has notified the draft of Food Safety and Standards (Labelling & Display) Amendment Regulations which is available at [https://fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Draft\\_Notification\\_HFSS\\_20\\_09\\_2022.pdf](https://fssai.gov.in/upload/uploadfiles/files/Draft_Notification_HFSS_20_09_2022.pdf). These amendment regulations propose a definition of foods with high content of fat, sugar and salt (HFSS Food) and also front-of- pack labelling of packaged foods (except for certain foods for which exemptions have been provided) with an Indian Nutrition Rating (INR).

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