

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4540
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025**

ADULTERATION IN BRANDED PACKAGED SPICES

4540. MRS RUCHI VIRA:
(OIH)

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the complaints or reports have been received to the Government in respect of adulteration of branded or packaged spices manufactured by the companies working in the country;
- (b) if so, the number of such cases reported in the last five years along with the name-wise details of the companies involved in violating the food security norms;
- (c) whether any laboratory test or sample analysis has been conducted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India or the State Food Safety Department;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) the details of the actions including imposition of penalty, cancellation of licenses or criminal proceedings taken against the manufacturers or the companies found guilty in such an adulteration; and
- (f) whether there is any monitoring system prevalent for ensuring constant compliance of food safety standards by the spices manufacturers?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) : Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that FSSAI and States/UTs Food Safety Authorities have received complaints w.r.t. various concerns including adulteration. In this regard, the consolidated data of complaints including related with spices received and resolved in last 5 financial years are given below:

Year	Complaints Received	Complaints Resolved
2020-21	850	829
2021-22	3881	3729
2022-23	4330	4074
2023-24	4735	3993
2024-25	7705	5952

(c) to (f) : FSSAI through State/UT Food Safety Authorities and its regional offices conduct regular surveillance, enforcement drive, monitoring, inspection, and sampling of various food products including spices.

For the testing of food samples, FSSAI has notified 244 NABL-accredited food testing laboratories. In addition, 22 Referral Food Laboratories, primarily owned by Central Government departments and institutions, have also been notified for the analysis of appellate samples.

In cases, where the food samples are found non-conforming during laboratory testing, penal actions are initiated against the defaulting Food Business Operators (FBOs) as per the provisions of FSS Act 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

The details of enforcement activities of food samples analyzed, found non-conforming and penalties etc in the past 3 years are placed at **Annexure-I**.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c to f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4540 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.08.2025 REGARDING ADULTERATION IN BRANDED PACKAGED SPICES.

Details of Enforcement activities undertaken in last 3 Years (including spices)									
Year	No. of Samples Analyzed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	Non-Conforming Samples			Civil Cases		Criminal Cases	
			Unsafe	Sub Standard	Labelling defects/ Misleading/ Miscellaneous	Decided with Penalty	Penalties Realized (Cr Rs.)	No. of Convictions	Penalties Realized (Cr Rs.)
2024-25	170535	34388	7945	22516	3931	30142	35.74	1265	3.03
2023-24	170513	33808	6782	22603	4423	29586	74.12	1161	2.67
2022-23	177511	44626	6579	21917	16130	28464	33.23	1188	2.75

Note: Sample analysed/cases launched/ penalties raised may include data from previous F.Y.

*The sum of 'Non-Conforming Samples (Unsafe + Sub-standard + Labelling defects+ Misleading claims) may be more than the 'No. of non-conforming Samples' as single sample may be qualified for all type of non-conformance.
