

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2857
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025

UPFS, FoPL and PDS

2857. SHRI BRIJMOHAN AGRAWAL:

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

- (a) the official definition of 'Ultra-Processed Foods' (UPFs);
- (b) the status of FSSAI's initiatives to define and regulate UPFs including harmonization of standards for identical products and current guidelines;
- (c) the plan for Front-of-Pack Labelling (FoPL) and healthier PDS alternatives, with timelines;
- (d) the recent public data does the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have on the percentage contribution of UPFs to the average Indian's daily energy intake and the manner in which this percentage changed during the last three years, State-wise;
- (e) the details of specific healthy and non-processed food alternatives are included or planned to be include in the Public Distribution System (PDS) basket for all States including Chhattisgarh; and
- (f) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to address regulatory gaps such as varying formulations and regional variations across the country including intersections with fortified PDS items such as rice etc.?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f) : The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 mandates the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to lay down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

FSSAI has notified the quality and safety standards of various food products which are on par with international standards (Codex standards, developed by the Codex Alimentarius Commission). Further, FSS Act, rules and regulations do not define the "Ultra-Processed Foods" (UPFs) but these type of foods are being regulated by FSSAI under its existing rules and regulations thereof.

The report of an Expert Committee has been submitted on Front of Pack Nutrition Labelling (FOPNL) to the Honourable Supreme Court of India and the matter is subjudice.

Further, Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 mandates the mention of nutritional information on the labels w.r.t salt, sugar and fat for consumer to make informed choices while selecting the food articles

FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Food) Regulation, 2018 which prescribes standards for fortification of various staple foods including rice and these standards are uniformly applicable across the country.
