

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1074  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2026**

**MONETARY PENALTIES UNDER FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS ACT, 2006**

**1074. SHRI ANURAG SHARMA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that the existing flat monetary penalties under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 are inadequate to deter large food manufacturing companies from repeated violations of food safety standards, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to amend the Act to introduce turnover-linked penalties, proportionate to the annual turnover of the Food Business Operator (FBO), for cases involving food adulteration, misbranding and repeated non-compliance, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to make Front-of-Pack (FOP) warning labels mandatory on pre-packaged foods containing high levels of sugar, salt and saturated fat in view of the observations of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding misleading food advertisements, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the timeline fixed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for implementation of such labelling norms; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to curb misleading health claims ("health-washing") in advertisements of ultra-processed food products?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE  
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

- (a) to (e): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is mandated 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. The implementation and enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments.

The penalties and punishment under the FSS Act, 2006 are imposed in a graded manner depending on the nature & gravity of offence and accordingly, civil penalties for minor offences and punishment for serious violations are levied. These penalties & punishments are levied post enquiry/trial through judicial proceedings i.e. adjudication & prosecution as provided under the FSS Act 2006 by the Adjudication Court and by a Judicial Magistrate of the first class or by a Metropolitan Magistrate.

Further, punishment for unsafe food includes imprisonment ranging from up to 3 months to imprisonment extending up to life imprisonment in cases resulting in death, along with substantial fines and penalties up to ₹10 lakh for offences such as sub-standard food, misleading advertisements, unhygienic processing, and possession of adulterants.

Further, Section 49 of the Act mandates that while adjudging penalties, factors such as unfair gain, loss caused, repetitive nature of contravention, and other relevant considerations are taken into account to ensure proportional and deterrent punishment. In addition to above, Section 64 of FSS Act, 2006 provides Punishment for subsequent offences to ensure deterrence.

FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 that mandates the mentioning of nutritional information on the labels w.r.t salt, sugar and fat for consumer to make informed choices while selecting the food articles. The matter of introducing Front of Pack Nutritional Labelling and rating system is sub-judice in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The Food Safety and Standards (Advertising and Claims) Regulations, 2018 ensure that all claims must be truthful, unambiguous, meaningful, not misleading and help consumers to comprehend the information provided, and shall not encourage or condone excess consumption of a particular food and prohibit any statement, suggestion, or implication that a balanced and varied diet cannot provide the nutrients required by the body in appropriate quantities.

There shall not appear in the label of any package, containing food for sale the words “recommended by the medical or nutrition or health professionals” or any words which imply or suggest that the food is recommended, prescribed, or approved by medical practitioners or approved for medical purpose. No health claims shall be made for foods that contain nutrients or constituents in quantity that increase the risk of disease or an adverse health-related condition.

Moreover, FSSAI also operates a dedicated consumer grievance portal on Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS), where consumers can lodge complaints or report misleading claims against Food Business Operators (FBOs) via Food Safety Connect App (<https://foscoss.fssai.gov.in/consumergrievance/>) or website. Consumer grievance received on the portal are forwarded to the concerned Food Business Operator (FBO) for resolution. If the FBO fails to address the complaint, the matter is escalated to the relevant licensing authority (State/UT or central) for assessment and appropriate action.

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