

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1148
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24TH JULY, 2026**

USE OF PALM OIL IN SNACKS AND PACKAGED FOODS

†1148. SHRI CHANDAN CHAUHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that palm oil, which is considered harmful to health, is being used on a large scale in snacks, biscuits, namkeen and other packaged food items in the country, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many multinational companies use sunflower oil or better quality edible oils for the same products in developed countries, whereas palm oil is used in the country and other low and middle-income countries, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government agrees that if a food item or any of its component is considered unsuitable or harmful to health in one country, the same product should not be considered safe for consumers in other countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to issue any guidelines in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (d): 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 Act, 2006 is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments.

FSSAI has notified Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 which specifies the Food Products standards of various food products including biscuits, edible oils and other packaged food items. Sub-regulation 2.2 of the aforementioned regulation specifies food product standards for Fats, oils and Fat emulsions including edible oils to be used in food wherein Palm oil is a standardized product.

Palm oil being a standardized edible oil is permitted in the food items like snacks, biscuits, namkeen and other packaged food items as edible oil ingredient as per Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011.

The sub regulation 5(2)(d) of Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, specify that “A specific name shall be used for ingredients in the list of ingredients” and for ingredients falling in the class name ‘Edible vegetable oil’ shall give the name of the specific edible oil for informed food choices of consumers.

The FBOs are mandated to comply with the defined standards. These food safety standards are made based on the scientific opinion provided by independent risk assessment bodies i.e. Scientific Panels and Scientific Committee and are harmonized with internationally accepted Codex standards.
