

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

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1636
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.07.2026

UNDERWEIGHT AND ADULTERATED PACKAGED COMMODITIES

1636. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:
SMT. BHARTI PARDHI:
SHRI RAVINDRA DATTARAM WAIKAR:
SHRI SHRIRANG APPA CHANDU BARNE:

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

- (a) the details of the nationwide campaign against underweight and adulterated packaged commodities along with the number of enforcement actions taken;
- (b) the reasons for the successful elimination of non-standard weights and measures in retail trade after the introduction of digital verifiable weighing machines;
- (c) the details of the capacity building of State legal metrology officers and the number of training programmes conducted;
- (d) the extent to which consumer confidence in packaged goods has increased due to strict enforcement of labelling and declaration requirements; and
- (e) the details of the future roadmap for mandatory verification of all electronic weighing instruments through remote sensing?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): To protect the consumer interests and ensuring that consumers get the correct quantity and proper information about the packaged commodities the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules are framed under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009. Enforcement of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and the rules made thereunder is primarily carried out by the Legal Metrology Departments of the States/UTs through regular inspections, market checks, surprise inspections and verification of weighing and measuring instruments. Action is taken as per law wherever cases of short quantity, use of non-standard weights and measures or violation of labelling and declaration requirements are detected.

The Legal Metrology Departments of States/ UTs have booked 381 cases of short delivery of packaged commodities during 2025-26 and recovered an amount of Rs. 71.81 Lakhs as compounding sum. Further, 2046 cases were booked during 2025-26 for short selling of goods in loose form and Rs. 1.47 crore were recovered from traders/ sellers as compounding sum.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the State/UT Food Safety Authorities also conduct regular surveillance and enforcement activities to check food adulteration and ensure compliance with food safety standards. During 2025-26, out of 2,23,808 food samples analysed by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities, 40,023 were found to be non-conforming, including 9,086 unsafe, 26,754 sub-standard and 4,225 having labelling defects/misbranding/misleading claims or other deficiencies. A total of 31,878 civil cases were decided with penalties amounting to ₹109.11 crore, while 1,918 criminal cases resulted in convictions with penalties amounting to ₹5.71 crore.

FSSAI has also undertaken consumer awareness initiatives, including the “#NoToAdulteration campaign”, DART (Detect Adulteration with Rapid Test) resources, Food Safety on Wheels/mobile food testing laboratories and rapid testing kits, to help consumers identify adulteration and make informed choices.

The periodic verification and stamping of weighing and measuring instruments by the State/UT Legal Metrology Departments, along with regular inspections, market surveillance, enforcement and awareness programmes, have contributed to reducing the use of non-standard weights and measures in retail trade. The use of digital and verifiable weighing instruments has further improved transparency and accuracy in transactions and strengthened consumer confidence.

Capacity building of State/UT Legal Metrology officers is also undertaken through the Indian Institute of Legal Metrology (IILM), Ranchi. During the period from December 2023 to July 2026, IILM, Ranchi conducted 8 Basic Training Courses covering 364 trainees and 48 Special Courses/Seminars covering 287 trainees, totaling 56 training programmes and 651 trainees from various States/UTs and participating organisations. The training programmes covered areas such as the Legal Metrology Act and Rules, Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, verification of weighing and measuring instruments, radar equipment, gas meters, fuel dispensers, automatic weighing instruments, weighbridges, mass comparators, consumer education and other emerging areas.

The enforcement of labelling and declaration requirements under the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, including declarations relating to MRP, net quantity, manufacturer/packer/importer details, month & year of manufacture and consumer care information, has improved transparency regarding price & quantity and enabled consumers to make more informed purchasing decisions.

Technology enabled systems and digital verification certificates with QR code mechanisms are also being utilized to strengthen the accuracy, transparency and reliability of weighing and measuring instruments, including electronic weighing instruments, in accordance with applicable legal and technical requirements.
