

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3226
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH AUGUST, 2026**

MICROPLASTICS IN PACKAGED AND PROCESSED FOODS

3226. DR. M P ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of recent studies highlighting the rising contamination of microplastics leaching from plastic packaging into packaged foods and beverages, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any national survey or risk assessment has been conducted by food safety authorities to quantify human exposure to microplastics through packaged food products, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans to establish safety thresholds or standardised testing standards for microplastic levels in food items, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the concrete regulatory steps being taken by the Government to promote safe, biodegradable packaging alternatives to safeguard public health?

**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 (FSS) Act, 2006 is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments.

FSSAI has funded the project by CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow, ICAR-Central institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), Kochi and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani titled "Micro-and nano-plastics as emerging food contaminants: Establishing validated Methodologies and understanding the prevalence in different food matrices". The objectives of the project are:-

- i. Development and validation of analytical methods for identification and quantification of micro/nano-plastics in foods matrices.

- ii. Inter- and intra-laboratory comparison of developed methods in identified food matrices.
- iii. Surveillance and determination of exposure levels of micro-/nano-plastics in identified foods matrices.

FSSAI has also notified the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, wherein, requirements for food-grade packaging are specified. It mandates that any material which comes in direct contact with food or likely to come in contact with food used for packaging, preparation, storing, wrapping, transportation and sale or service of food shall be of food grade quality. It also prescribes standards for plastic materials intended to come into contact with food products, which makes reference to the corresponding Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications. These standards are on par with international standards, thereby ensuring consistency with global food safety practices. Further, it specifies that all packaging materials of plastic origin shall pass the prescribed overall migration limit of 60mg/kg or 10mg/dm² when tested as per IS 9845 with no visible colour migration.

The Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018 also specifies that every food business operator shall obtain the certificate of conformity issued by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) against these regulations for the packaging material which comes in direct contact with food or layers likely to come in contact with food to be used.
