

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3270
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH AUGUST, 2026**

VIOLATIONS OF FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS

3270. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:

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

- (a) the reasons for the rising cases of food adulteration, contamination, counterfeiting and repeated violations of food safety standards across the country;
- (b) the details of food samples tested and found unsafe, prosecutions launched, convictions secured, and the number of deaths due to food adulteration during the last five years, year wise and State-wise;
- (c) the details of food-testing infrastructure, including the number of functional laboratories, the average testing time and vacancies of Food Safety Officers, State-wise;
- (d) the number of notified FSSAI laboratories lacking facilities to test for heavy metals, pesticide residues and bacterial contamination, along with the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any regulatory framework specifically governs storage conditions, temperature control, hygiene, traceability and inspection frequency at quick-commerce dark stores, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) whether the Government proposes to launch a comprehensive National Food Safety Mission to ensure food traceability, strengthen surveillance and safeguard public health, if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) to (f): 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.

Around 98% of the Food Business Operators (FBOs) fall within the jurisdiction of the State/UT Food Safety Authorities. Accordingly, the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act, 2006) primarily rests with the State/UT Food Safety Authorities within their respective jurisdictions. For compliance with the standards, limits, and other statutory requirements prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the regulations made thereunder, the State Food Safety Authorities undertake surveillance, monitoring, targeted enforcement drives, inspections, and sampling activities across the food sector.

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the last 5 years (state wise) are placed at **Annexure-I**.

For the quality and safety of the food and food products, FSSAI has notified 259 NABL accredited food testing laboratories for analysis of food samples and 24 Referral Food Laboratories for the analysis of appellate samples. These laboratories are notified for analysis of food samples in accordance with their NABL-accredited scope. The Food analyst is required to submit the report of analysis within fourteen days of receipt of the sample. State-wise details of food testing laboratories are placed at **Annexure-II**.

Matters related to vacancies of Food Safety Officers (FSOs) in states are taken up regularly with the Commissioner of Food Safety of States/UTs through Central Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings. State-wise details of sanctioned strength, actual strength and vacancies of Food Safety Officers, are attached as **Annexure-III**.

The number of FSSAI notified laboratories lacking the facilities to test heavy metals, pesticides, microbiological parameters etc. are 13 across the country. In order to upgrade and strengthen the testing infrastructure of State Food Testing Laboratories (SFTL), FSSAI has provided financial and technical assistance for establishment of facilities for microbiological analysis and procurement of High End Equipment (HEE) for heavy metals and pesticide residues analysis.

FSSAI has specified General Hygienic and Sanitary Practices to be followed by Licensed/Registered Food Business Operators under Schedule 4 of FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 which is applicable to all food business operators including those involved in storage activity such as quick-commerce dark stores. Schedule 4 of the said Regulations lays down the sanitary and hygienic requirements to be complied with by Food Business Operators, including requirements relating to storage conditions, temperature control, hygiene, transportation, pest control, personnel hygiene, cleaning and sanitation, and maintenance of records to facilitate traceability, as applicable.

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the Year 2025-2026					
S. No.	State	Samples analyzed	No. of Samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Decided with Penalty	No. of Convictions
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	5,798	429	196	16
3	Arunachal Pradesh	191	10	1	0
4	Assam	1,444	117	0	0
5	Bihar	1,850	94	25	0
6	Chandigarh	603	53	71	17
7	Chhattisgarh	2,065	214	200	2
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	151	0	0	0
9	Delhi	1,684	109	32	16
10	Goa	2,492	321	12	0
11	Gujarat	11,903	824	842	65
12	Haryana	2,335	723	1,424	116
13	Himachal Pradesh	1,589	321	359	9
14	Jammu & Kashmir	6,546	664	1,368	14
15	Jharkhand	1,281	356	73	0
16	Karnataka	13,349	537	248	33
17	Kerala	16,746	1,863	1,026	330
18	Ladakh	519	26	12	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	12,448	757	1,790	32
21	Maharashtra	7,694	1,335	2,445	8
22	Manipur	570	0	1	0
23	Meghalaya	388	22	0	0
24	Mizoram	198	1	0	0
25	Nagaland	238	13	0	0
26	Orissa	1,110	61	0	0
27	Puducherry	388	84	0	0
28	Punjab	7,809	1,031	723	25
29	Rajasthan	17,325	4,594	2,695	31
30	Sikkim	418	7	6	0
31	Tamil Nadu	44,603	3,984	1,359	857
32	Telangana	3,576	398	0	0
33	Tripura	304	14	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	39,519	20,427	14,890	342
35	Uttarakhand	1,937	224	243	5
36	West Bengal	14,737	410	1,837	0
	Total	2,23,808	40,023	31,878	1,918

* The data for FY 2025-26 is provisional and subject to revision based on the outcome of further lab testing and court proceedings.

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the year 2024-2025					
S. No.	State/UT	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Decided with Penalty	No. of Convictions
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	810	4	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	5984	514	464	8
3	Arunachal Pradesh	125	9	7	0
4	Assam	1705	234	0	0
5	Bihar	2863	124	25	0
6	Chandigarh	374	65	116	41
7	Chhattisgarh	2069	270	143	6
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	56	0	0	0
9	Delhi	2624	130	18	16
10	Goa	1172	74	11	0
11	Gujarat	12387	901	859	91
12	Haryana	2233	500	599	59
13	Himachal Pradesh	1587	293	471	0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	6955	651	1,239	29
15	Jharkhand	364	138	52	0
16	Karnataka	9371	662	283	32
17	Kerala	10767	1635	1,088	206
18	Ladakh	417	45	38	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	13920	1635	2,597	22
21	Maharashtra	5403	1250	1,147	0
22	Manipur	126	1	2	0
23	Meghalaya	388	5	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	2	0	0
25	Nagaland	223	11	0	0
26	Orissa	2282	273	27	0
27	Puducherry	173	0	0	0
28	Punjab	4131	748	333	8
29	Rajasthan	13840	3788	3,114	30
30	Sikkim	254	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	18071	2240	1,536	492
32	Telangana	3347	324	125	0
33	Tripura	123	5	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	30380	16500	14,920	215
35	Uttarakhand	1509	140	256	4
36	West Bengal	14502	1217	672	6
	Total	170535	34388	30142	1265

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the year 2023-24					
S. No.	State/UT	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Decided with penalty	No. of Convictions
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	6439	472	646	8
3	Arunachal Pradesh	501	11	2	0
4	Assam	1139	125	0	0
5	Bihar	2806	126	79	0
6	Chandigarh	311	49	87	52
7	Chhattisgarh	1373	167	86	2
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	185	0	0	0
9	Delhi	3412	150	36	12
10	Goa	599	16	17	0
11	Gujarat	15841	910	1701	65
12	Haryana	3485	856	593	47
13	Himachal Pradesh	1618	401	376	2
14	Jammu & Kashmir	9057	750	1612	22
15	Jharkhand	384	292	59	0
16	Karnataka	5492	286	75	16
17	Kerala	10792	1304	854	134
18	Ladakh	638	11	19	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	13998	2022	1938	46
21	Maharashtra	5087	1174	154	0
22	Manipur	168	3	0	0
23	Meghalaya	123	7	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	138	3	3	0
26	Orissa	2003	252	0	0
27	Puducherry	31	0	0	0
28	Punjab	6041	929	1204	102
29	Rajasthan	18536	3493	2181	12
30	Sikkim	231	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	18146	2237	2195	478
32	Telangana	6156	973	425	0
33	Tripura	87	0	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	27750	16183	14627	163
35	Uttarakhand	1998	192	332	0
36	West Bengal	5948	414	285	0
	Total	170513	33808	29586	1161

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the year 2022-23					
S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Convicted with penalty	No. of Conviction
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1200	46	58	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3607	314	339	12
3	Arunachal Pradesh	258	11	0	0
4	Assam	602	99	0	0
5	Bihar	2935	92	39	0
6	Chandigarh	473	64	27	8
7	Chhattisgarh	1468	96	119	8
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	164	10	13	0
9	Delhi	3133	255	86	10
10	Goa	699	103	11	0
11	Gujarat	14562	978	547	24
12	Haryana	4445	1425	915	35
13	Himachal Pradesh	2720	729	93	1
14	Jammu & Kashmir	13502	1195	1592	15
15	Jharkhand	943	370	44	8
16	Karnataka	3416	322	191	15
17	Kerala	8533	1362	454	33
18	Ladakh	220	6	23	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	12507	2092	1908	71
21	Maharashtra	11077	1340	198	5
22	Manipur	169	4	0	0
23	Meghalaya	409	41	0	0
24	Mizoram	140	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	109	6	0	0
26	Odisha	1368	367	47	0
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	8179	1724	1404	5
29	Rajasthan	13184	3965	2435	4
30	Sikkim	279	0	4	0
31	Tamil Nadu	24188	7924	3714	678
32	Telangana	4809	894	315	0
33	Tripura	31	8	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	30140	18108	13148	251
35	Uttarakhand	1839	342	507	5
36	West Bengal	6203	334	233	0
Total		177511	44626	28464	1188

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the year 2021-22					
S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Convicted with penalty	No. of Conviction
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	850	4	5	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	5290	533	484	6
3	Arunachal Pradesh	108	2	0	0
4	Assam	520	67	5	0
5	Bihar	555	17	75	0
6	Chandigarh	388	28	60	1
7	Chhattisgarh	1436	180	90	6
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	234	0	7	0
9	Delhi	1956	218	89	27
10	Goa	200	14	2	0
11	Gujarat	13663	824	668	14
12	Haryana	4235	1182	78	21
13	Himachal Pradesh	1745	308	249	0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8109	1735	1931	4
15	Jharkhand	175	85	42	8
16	Karnataka	5844	150	125	0
17	Kerala	7855	925	237	10
18	Ladakh	47	19	12	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	16059	2900	2030	72
21	Maharashtra	9580	1454	787	12
22	Manipur	236	3	1	1
23	Meghalaya	70	5	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	127	14	0	0
26	Odisha	1168	260	52	0
27	Puducherry	5	2	2	0
28	Punjab	6768	1059	0	8
29	Rajasthan	10386	2891	626	1
30	Sikkim	66	5	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	16363	3778	2884	360
32	Telangana	3077	353	77	0
33	Tripura	31	0	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	21987	13153	8585	118
35	Uttarakhand	2511	560	182	1
36	West Bengal	2701	207	52	1
Total		144345	32935	19437	671

Annexure- II

State-wise Number of Primary and Referral Laboratories

No. of Primary labs notified by FSSAI u/s 43 (1), FSSA 2006							No. of Referral labs notified by FSSAI u/s 43 (2), FSSA 2006
S, N o.	State/UT	State Govt. Owned Labs	FSSAI Owned Labs	FSSAI Owned and Run on PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode	Labs owned by Govt. Institutions (Other than FSSAI)	Private Owned Labs	Referral labs (All Govt. Owned Labs)
1	Andhra Pradesh				1	4	1
2	A & N Islands						
3	Arunachal Pradesh						
4	Assam	1			1	1	
5	Bihar	1	1			2	
6	Chandigarh						
7	Chhattisgarh	1					
8	Dadar Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu					1	
9	Delhi	1			1	14	
10	Goa	1				1	
11	Gujarat	6			3	10	2
12	Haryana	2			1	17	2
13	Himachal Pradesh	1				1	
14	Jammu & Kashmir	2					
15	Jharkhand	1				1	
16	Karnataka	4				18	2
17	Kerala	3			9	7	2
18	Ladakh						
19	Lakshadweep						
20	Madhya Pradesh	1				9	
21	Maharashtra	5		1	1	32	4
22	Manipur	1					
23	Meghalaya	1					
24	Mizoram						

25	Nagaland	1					
26	Odisha	1				1	
27	Puducherry						
28	Punjab	1			1	1	1
29	Rajasthan	10			1	5	
30	Sikkim						
31	Tamil Nadu	6		1	1	17	3
32	Telangana	1			2	9	4
33	Tripura	1			1		
34	Uttar Pradesh	6		1	3	5	2
35	Uttarakhand	1				1	
36	West Bengal	2	1		3	6	1
Total		62	2	3	29	163	24
		259					

Annexure III

S. No.	State/UT	Food Safety Officer		
		Sanctioned	Filled Post	Vacant Post
1	A & N Islands	19	17	2
2	Andhra Pradesh	145	47	98
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3	16*	0
4	Assam	77	41	26
5	Bihar	105	9	96
6	Chandigarh	8	5	3
7	Chhattisgarh	125	37	88
8	DNHDD	4	3	1
9	Delhi	32	19	13
10	Goa	39	35	4
11	Gujarat	306	162	144
12	Haryana	45	23	22
13	Himachal Pradesh	22	14	8
14	Jammu & Kashmir	101	79	22
15	Jharkhand	77	20	57
16	Karnataka	210	210	0
17	Kerala	160	160	0
18	Ladakh	7	8*	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	9*	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	367	157	210
21	Maharashtra	350	318	32
22	Manipur	34	17	17
23	Meghalaya	25	21	4
24	Mizoram	9	7	2
25	Nagaland	7	5	2
26	Orissa	147	63	84
27	Puducherry	7	0	7
28	Punjab	60	52	8
29	Rajasthan	398	318	80
30	Sikkim	4	2	2
31	Tamil Nadu	394	326	68
32	Telangana	81	44	37
33	Tripura	23	11	12
34	Uttar Pradesh	662	552	110
35	Uttarakhand	57	20	37
36	West Bengal	190	174	16
	Total	4300	3001	1312

*Working on contract basis or given additional charge as per requirement.