

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 985
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th JULY, 2026**

**FOOD SAFETY ENFORCEMENT AGAINST ADULTERATION AND HARMFUL
ADDITIVES**

985. MS KANGNA RANAUT:

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

- (a) the number of inspections, food samples tested and prosecutions initiated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) against manufacturers of packaged food products during the last three years;
- (b) the number of cases in which food products were found to contain adulterants, excessive preservatives, toxic contaminants or carcinogenic substances in excess of the prescribed limits;
- (c) the action taken by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) against defaulting manufacturers including product recalls, licence suspension or cancellation, imposition of penalties and prosecution; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to strengthen surveillance, laboratory testing and consumer awareness regarding food safety standards across the country?

**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.

Around 98% of the Food Business Operators (FBOs) fall within the jurisdiction of the State/UT Food Safety Authorities. To ensure compliance with the standards, limits, and other statutory requirements prescribed under the FSS 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.

Any deviation from the prescribed standards or violation of the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Regulation (FSSR), when detected, results in stringent regulatory and punitive action against the non-compliant FBOs in accordance with the FSS Act, 2006 and the rules framed thereunder, including suspension & cancellation of licence, prohibition on sale, seizure & destruction of non-compliant food articles and judicial action through adjudication (civil) and prosecution (criminal) as per the provisions outlined in Chapter IX (Offences and Penalties) of FSS Act, 2006.

Total number of food recall in the FY 2024-25 was 754 and quantity of Food recall was 51512.94 Kg. Total number of food recall in the FY 2025-26 was 1147 and quantity of Food recall was 33540.68 Kg.

Details of the enforcement action taken viz., inspections, samples analysed, samples found non-conforming including violations such as adulterants, excessive preservatives, contaminants and penal action viz., adjudication & prosecution undertaken against the defaulting FBOs including the manufacturers of packaged food products, for non-compliance in the last 3 years is annexed at **Annexure-I**. The number of Licenses suspended and cancelled in last 3 years is annexed at **Annexure-II**.

Measures taken to strengthen the laboratory testing, surveillance and consumer awareness regarding food safety standards across the country are as:

- To ensure the safety of the food and food products through testing, FSSAI has notified 259 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for analysis of food samples and 24 Referral Food Laboratories for the analysis of appeal samples. These laboratories belong to the States/UTs, various Government Institutions/Departments and private entities. FSSAI provides technical and financial support to the State Food Safety Authorities, to strengthen the food testing infrastructure in States & UTs. FSSAI has also provided assistance under the scheme "Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country including provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs" (SoFTeL) to various States and UTs.
- To strengthen the laboratory capacity, from 2017 to till date FSSAI has conducted 222 training programmes for its notified food testing laboratories in which 3937 participants have been trained.
- Mobile Food Testing Laboratory (MFTL) or "Food Safety on Wheels" (FSW) ensures the widest outreach for food testing, training and awareness programme, especially in

the villages, towns and remote areas. Currently, 305 FSWs are deployed across 35 States/UTs.

- The "Magic Box" is a compact and user-friendly kit containing simple, rapid test methods to detect common food adulterants in seven different food commodities. It aims to identify adulteration in everyday food items such as milk, spices, oils, and grains.
- Detect Adulteration with Rapid Test (DART) book covers 44 tests that can be performed easily at household level with the help of water and simple solutions like tincture of iodine for food products like Milk & Milk Products, Oils & Fats, Sugar & Confectionary, Food Grains & its products, Spices & Condiments etc. These tests also include sensory evaluation tests for establishing authentication of food products. DART book depicts the differences between pure and adulterated food product through pictorial representation.
- Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAPID) Kits are advanced, easy to use, portable and handheld devices and don't require any sophisticated equipment or conventional reagents to conduct the tests. So far, 88 RAFT kits have been approved. These kits help to reduce the screening time of the food products at the field level and thereby accelerate surveillance as well as monitoring activities.
- The FSSAI also carries out a nation-wide movement 'Eat Right India' with a focus on preventive and promotive healthcare through social and behavioural change through State Food Safety Authorities. Financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs for spreading consumer awareness.
- FSSAI has launched various campaigns such as “#No To Adulteration” to raise consumer awareness about food adulteration and how to identify adulterated products. These initiatives include advertisements, educational materials, and online platforms to spread awareness.
- Videos “How to Check for Adulteration” on its official YouTube channel, which includes short videos demonstrating methods to detect adulteration in various food items, including milk and milk products, edible oil etc. These Information Education Communication (IEC) materials are available in regional languages too and are showcased at various public events and campaigns.
- Complaints/concerns of consumers and FBO are received through various channels such as Web portal, Mobile App, FSSAI Helpline, State helpline, Twitter, Facebook, etc. Complaints on Food Safety Connect Portal is part of the online Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS). Complaints are attended by the respective State food

safety authorities and in cases, where the food samples are found non-conforming, penal actions are initiated against the defaulting FBOs as per the provisions of FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.

- FSSAI is also carrying out an awareness campaign, "#HarLabelKuchKahtaHai", to empower citizens with label literacy for healthier eating and informed choices. This initiative educates consumers on key elements like nutritional information (calories, fats, sugars, protein), ingredient lists, allergen warnings, and date markings.

Annexure-I

Details of Enforcement for last 3 Years including packaged food products conducted by State Food Safety Authorities							
Year	Number of Inspection	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	Civil Cases		Criminal Cases	
				Decided with Penalty	Penalties Raised (Cr Rs.)	No. of Convictions	Penalties Raised (Cr Rs.)
2025-26*	83,612	223,808	40023	31878	109.11	1918	5.70
2024-25	99,875	170535	34388	30142	35.74	1265	3.03
2023-24	88,249	170513	33808	29586	74.12	1161	2.67

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

Note- The cases launched and penalties raised may include the data of the samples analysed in the previous year.

The number of Licenses suspended and cancelled in last 3 years

Financial Year	Total Suspended	Total Cancelled
2025-26	704	4764
2024-25	769	1679
2023-24	791	1505
Total	2264	7948