

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1890
TO BE ANSWERED ON 2ND AUGUST, 2024**

FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS

1890. SHRI SELVAGANAPATHI T.M.

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

- (a) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has directed all e-commerce food business operators to ensure the appropriate categorization of food products being sold on their websites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the instances of licensed proprietary foods, which are dairy-based, cereal-based and malt-based beverage mix being sold on e-commerce website under the category of health or energy drinks have been brought to the notice of FSSAI; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b): As per the mandate stipulated under the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulates the storage, distribution & sale of food items. FSSAI has framed regulations to regulate food business through E-commerce. These regulations specifies the provisions for 'Licensing of E-commerce Food Business Operator'. Further said regulations also provides that E-commerce Food Business Operators (FBOs) shall ensure that no misleading information/false claims to the product or misleading images of food products are made available or shown on their platform. Accordingly, E-commerce FBOs need to comply with the requirement laid down under the act and regulations including appropriate categorisation of food articles to avoid misleading the consumers.

(c) & (d): FSSAI has issued an advisory dated 28-03-2024 for providing clarification regarding categorization of 'Health Drinks / Energy Drinks' on E-Commerce websites. All E-commerce FBOs have been advised to remove/de-link such drinks/ beverages falling under the purview of FSS Act, 2006 from the category of 'Health Drinks /Energy Drinks' on their website and place such products in the appropriate category as provided under the extant law.

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