

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:397

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2004

SALE OF SYNTHETIC GHEE

Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh;Goel Shri Surendra Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that trading of synthetic ghee is flourishing in various States particularly in Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana where several hundred tonnes of synthetic ghee is being sold per day in several fake brand names with Agmark;

(b) if so, the details and facts thereof;

(c) the action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the sale of synthetic ghee?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 397 DUE FOR REPLY ON 23RD AUGUST, 2004.

(a)&(b): Ghee means the pure clarified fat derived solely from milk or curd or from deshi (cooking) butter or from cream to which no colouring matter or preservative has been added. The ghee which does meet the standards prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 is termed as 'adulterated'. The ghee not meeting the standards of grade marked on the container is termed as 'misgraded' under the provisions of Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937. Cases of ghee sold under Agmark fake brand and ghee samples not conforming to Agmark specifications have been noticed. A statement indicating the details of the samples drawn in various States and misgradings under Agmark is given in the Annexure enclosed.

(c): To ensure quality of Ghee marketed under Agmark, regular checks of the Ghee packed by authorized packers is being done by Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI) an attached office of Ministry of Agriculture. On getting reports of sale of synthetic ghee in fake brand names with Agmark, instructions were issued to Regional Offices of DMI to carry out special sampling drive in authorized packer's premises and markets. To address the problem of false, fabricated and fake Agmark seal, all Regional Offices were directed to lodge complaint of such cases with the police authorities. During special sampling drive, 286 check samples were drawn from various parts of the country. 277 check samples have been analysed and the rest 9 samples are being analyzed. 12 check samples were found not conforming to Agmark standards for the grade marked on the container. Action as per provisions in the rules has been taken on the samples found not conforming to Agmark standards. One case of fake brand with 'as per Agmark' printed on the container was noticed and a complaint has been lodged with the police authorities since he was not an authorized packer under Agmark. The adulteration and misbranding of food items including ghee are dealt with under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the Rules made there under being implemented by the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/ Union Territories. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is advising Food (Health) Authorities of the States/ Union Territories from time to time to keep a strict vigil including launching of special drive on the quality of food articles including ghee sold in the markets.

ANNEXURE

SPECIAL CHECK SAMPLING DRIVE OF GHEE CARRIED OUT BY DMI TO CHECK AGMARK CERTIFIED GHEE

Name of State	No. of check samples drawn	No. of Check samples misgraded
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Andhra Pradesh	14	Nil
Bihar	4	Under analysis
Chandigarh	3	Nil
Delhi	24 #	Nil
Gujarat	5	Nil
Himachl Pradesh	4	Nil
Jammu & Kashmir	8	Nil
Karnataka	32	Nil
Kerala	46	Nil
Madhya Pradesh	12	Nil

Maharashtra	26	3
Orissa	5	Under analysis
Punjab	47	# 1
Rajasthan	8	2
Tamil N adu	11	1
Uttar Pradesh	29	4
West Bengal	8	1

Total 286 12

= Two samples drawn from Delhi and one sample drawn in Punjab pertained to authorized packers in Haryana.