

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:966

ANSWERED ON:30.07.2010

ADULTERATION OF FOOD ITEMS

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

- (a) whether there has been a sharp increase in the incidents of adulteration in various food, items in the country, especially the foodgrains;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons apprehended for adulteration of food-items during the last two years and the action taken against them;
- (c) whether the present laws to control adulteration in food-items are inadequate;
- (d) if so, whether the Government proposes to introduce any new law in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government also proposes to constitute any new Food Commission in view of the rising number of cases of adulteration; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRVEDI)

(a)&(b): According to the latest available information provided by the States/U.Ts. Governments, the percentage of adulteration in food articles declined from 8.44 percent of the samples collected in 2006 to 7.73 percent in 2008. The details regarding number of food samples found adulterated during the year 2007-08 alongwith number of prosecution launched and number of cases convicted as made available by the States/U.Ts. Governments is as under:-

Year	No. of samples examined	No. of samples found adulterated	Percentage of adulteration	No. of prosecution launched	No. of Cases convicted
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2007	70610	5765	8.16	3902	2472
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2008	74835	5784	7.73	3231	545
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(c) &(d): At present, quality and safety of food is regulated by the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. This Act is implemented by the State and UTs Governments, while the standards are laid down by Central government through a Statutory Committee i.e Central Committee for Food Standards. The Act is implemented by lifting up food samples and getting them tested in the State Food Laboratories and prosecuting the violators in the Court of Law which is however, a long drawn process.

Considering the need for a comprehensive approach to food safety in the country, the Parliament has passed the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, integrating the multiplicity of provisions under various food laws and inter-alia regulating the Food Safety Standards, uniform licensing, etc. in the country. Further under the provisions of the said Act, the Government has constituted the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India in September, 2008, to carry out the purposes of the said Act.

(e): No.

(f): Does not arise.