

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2267

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2010

ADULTERATION IN EDIBLE ITEMS

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

- (a) the details of policy formulated by the Government to check adulteration in the edible items, particularly milk and milk products;
- (b) the punishment prescribed for the guilty persons engaged in such adulteration;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to enact more stringent law in this regard;and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a): The quality and safety of food is regulated by the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955. The Act is implemented by the Food (Health) Authorities of the State/U.T. Governments. Samples of various foods including milk and milk products are taken regularly by the States/U.Ts Governments. The State Governments have also been advised to undertake a thorough review of implementation of the P.F.A. Act and Rules especially to curb the problems of adulteration in milk and milk products and take strict action against the offenders.

(b): Penal provisions for violations of any provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and or PFA Rules, 1955 are enumerated under Section 16 of the Act. The penalty depends on the gravity of the offence.

Â§ If a person manufactures for sale or stores, sells or distributes any article of food which is declared adulterated on account of quality or for manufacturing, for sale, storage, distribution of adulterated food which does not cause injury to health –penalty with imprisonment for a term minimum six months but may be up to three years and with a fine which shall not be less than one thousand rupees.

Â§ In case a person manufactures for sale or stores, sells or distributes any article of food which is declared adulterated for containing any colouring matter other than that prescribed in respect thereof is present in the article, a penalty with imprisonment for a term of minimum one year but may be extended to six years and with a fine which shall not be less than two thousand rupees.

Â§ In case of adulteration amounting to grievous hurt within the meaning under Section 320 of the IPC or endangering the life, imprisonment upto life is also envisaged.

(c) & (d) 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.