

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:907

ANSWERED ON:12.11.2010

ADULTERATION OF FOOD ITEMS

Das Shri Ram Sundar; Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz; Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada; Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma; Shekhar Shri Neeraj; Singh Shri Radhey Mohan

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

- (a) whether a number of cases of adulteration of food items including desi ghee, mawa have been reported from various parts of the country especially on the eve of Deepawali;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last year and the current year so far, State/ UT-wise;
- (c) the number of cases relating to adulteration of food items pending in the courts along with the number of persons including officials found guilty and punished for this involvement in such act during the said period;
- (d) the corrective steps taken/proposed by the Government to check the menace of adulteration of food items in the country;
- (e) whether the number of food inspectors listing labs exist in various States/UTs, are inadequate to cope up with work load; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. As per available information, state-wise details regarding number of food samples collected, examined and found adulterated, are at Annexure-I. The details regarding number of prosecution launched and number of cases convicted alongwith the number of cases relating to adulteration of food items pending in the courts as made available by the States/U.Ts. Governments are at Annexure-II.

The information for the year, 2010 has not been made available from the States/U.Ts.

(d): Several steps have been taken by the Government to check adulteration which includes lifting of samples by the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. for testing, conducting raids at suspected places and taking action against such persons. The standards of food articles are revised and updated from time to time. Appropriate advisories and alerts are also issued to the State/U.Ts authorities from time to time for keeping strict vigil on the quality of food items within their respective jurisdiction for ensuring safe and wholesome food for consumers.

The Central Government has also passed the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 to consolidate and integrate a number of food related laws administered by different authorities by bringing them under a common umbrella and to bring them under the supervision of a new single authority namely the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

(e) & (f): There are 72 food laboratories in the country at District/Regional or State levels in addition to four Central Food Laboratories set up by the Central Government for screening and testing of food products. The Food Safety and Standards Act also provides for use of any National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited or any other accreditation approved by FSSAI, including those in the private sector for testing of food.