

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:739

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011

FOOD ADULTERATION

Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Deshmukh Shri K. D.;Kodikunnil Shri Suresh;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Namdhari Shri Inder Singh;Punia Shri P.L. ;Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Ravneet;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) whether a large number of cases of sale of adulterated milk products, edible vegetable oils, spices, pulses, vegetables and other food items have been reported from various parts of the country recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of such cases reported during last year and the current year, State-UT-wise;
- (c) whether large number of cases of sale of adulterated food products have also been reported during festive seasons such as Diwali and Holi;
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent sale of adulterated food items including issue of advisory to State/UTs before all major festivals; and
- (e) whether the Union Government proposes to make sale of adulterated food items a criminal offence; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a) to (d): The implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 rests with the State/U.T. Governments. In this regard, random samples of various food articles including milk products, edible vegetable oils, spices, pulses, vegetables are drawn regularly by the State/U.T. Governments and penal action is taken against the offenders, in cases where samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the Act. As per the information received from the States/U.Ts., the average adulteration of food items on the basis of the samples examined during 2010 was 12.65%. (Annexure). The information for the current year is not so far available.

An advisory dated 25.10.2011 has been issued requesting all States / UTs to take necessary action for regular checking of various food items and identifying the possible elements indulging in adulteration of food.

(e) & (f): Considering the need for a comprehensive approach to food safety in the country, the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006 has been enacted to replace the erstwhile the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and some other food related Orders. The FSS Act has come into force on 5th August, 2011, which provides for punishment ranging from imprisonment for 6 months and fine upto Rs. 1 lakh to imprisonment for life with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10 lakhs for manufacture, storage, distribution and sale of unsafe food.