

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:885

ANSWERED ON:14.08.2012

QUALITY OF EDIBLE OILS

Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarya Swamy

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the measures taken by the Government to keep a check on adulteration of edible oils and to maintain the quality of edible oils;
- (b) the number of samples lifted and analysed during each of the last three years from rural/tribal/jhuggi-jhopadi, unauthorised residential areas by the Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils and Fats (DVVO&F) and the number of them found adulterated along with the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to increase the lifting of samples for analysis to check adulteration; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS)

(a) to (d): Adulteration of edible oils which earlier came under the purview of Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 now has been replaced by Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, being implemented by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Directorate of Vanaspati, Vegetable Oils and Fats (DVVOF) under the ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution was only entrusted with drawing and analysis of samples from industries at the factory level under Vegetable Oil Products (Regulation) Order, 1998. But even this function has now been taken over by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India after the repeal of Vegetable Oil Products (Regulation) Order, 1998 and coming into being of FSS Regulation, 2011 under FSS Act, 2006, w.e.f. 5.8.2011. The Dte. VVO&F did not have the mandate even earlier for lifting and analysis of samples from rural/tribal jhuggi-jhopadi and unauthorized residential areas. Now all these regulatory functions belong only to FSSAI.

As per information received from FSSAI (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare) the implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is entrusted with the Food/Health Authorities of the States/UTs. The enforcement staff of the States/UTs draw random samples of various food articles including edible vegetable oils from time to time to check adulteration in food commodities and action is taken against the offenders where the samples do not conform to the prescribed standards or do not conform to various provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The State Governments have been advised to be vigilant and undertake systematic regular checks for various food articles including edible oils. Besides power is also given to Food Safety Officers to lift samples of food including edible oils and fats from manufacturers/distributors/wholesalers/retailers to check the adulteration in food products. No data is maintained centrally by FSSAI for number of samples analysed and food adulterated.