

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1315

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012

ADULTERATED FOOD ITEMS

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

- (a) whether a number of cases of adulterated and spurious food items have been reported from various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last one year and the current year so far, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the action taken by the Government against those found guilty;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the efficacy of present laws to prevent the marketing of adulterated and spurious food items across the country; and
- (e) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof and the steps taken/ proposed by the Government to strengthen the laws and enforcement mechanism to deal with the cases of adulterated and spurious food items?

Answer

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

- (a)&(b): As per information received from some States/U.Ts, state-wise details of the number of samples of food articles examined and found adulterated during the year 2011-2012, are Annexed.
- (c): Random samples of various food articles including fruits, vegetables, and pulses are drawn regularly by the State/U.T Governments and penal action is taken against the offenders, in cases where samples are found not conforming to the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- (d) & (e): The Food Safety and Standards Act, (FSSA) 2006 was passed by the Parliament establishing the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to lay down science based standards for the articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, and to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. This Act has replaced the erstwhile the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and multiple food orders regulations. Rules and Regulations, setting various standards, under the FSSA have been notified with effect from 5.8.2011. Provisions and graded penalties have been made in the new Act. The food regulatory framework has now moved from limited prevention of food adulteration regime to safe and wholesome food regime. Under the new Law, the States have been requested to strengthen their food regulatory enforcement mechanisms.