

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:365

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2009

ADULTERATED FOOD ITEMS

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram; Das Shri Bhakta Charan; Mahajan Smt. Sumitra; Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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 oil, spices, pulses, vegetables and other food items have been reported from various parts of the country recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of such cases reported during the last year and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the number of persons found guilty for involvement in such act and the action taken against them by the Government during the said period, State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate an integrated food law to check such activity; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The implementation of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. Samples of various foods are taken regularly by the States/U.Ts. Governments and action is taken from time to time in case of complaints of adulterated food. The details of the number of cases of sale of adulterated food items, number of persons found guilty and action taken against them during the last year and current year is being collected from the State/U.Ts. and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) & (e): A new Act, the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has been enacted to replace various food laws, including the PFA Act, 1954 with more comprehensive provisions by consolidating them and for establishing the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Accordingly the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (the Food Authority) has been set up by the Government, which has started functioning. Various authorities dealing with different aspects of food laws in the country have now been brought under a single umbrella of Food Authority.