

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:664

ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009

ADULTERATION IN FOOD ITEMS

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

- (a) whether a large number of cases of sale of adulterated milk, spices, pulses and other food items have been reported from various parts of country including Delhi recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the number of cases of adulteration reported in the country during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) the details of the chemicals/substances being used for adulteration by the culprits;
- (d) the details of laboratories for testing adulteration in food items in the country, State-wise; and
- (e) the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government to check adulteration in food items?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) & (b) The enforcement of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) 1954 and Rules 1955 is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.Ts. The enforcement staff of the States/U.T.s Governments draw random samples of all food items from all levels viz. manufacturers/ wholesalers/Retailers.

A statement containing the details regarding number of cases of adulteration reported in the country among all the food items during the years 2006 and 2007 as per information provided by the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/U.T.s is at Annexure-I. Information in respect of the year 2008 and the current year till date is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No such details have been reported by the States/U.T.s Governments.

(d) At present there are 72 laboratories of States and 7 Central Food Laboratories functioning under the PFA Act, 1954 in the country for testing adulteration in food items. A statement containing the details of laboratories for testing adulteration in food items in the country is at Annexure-II,

(e) In order to keep a check on adulteration in food, the Food (Health) Authorities have been advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil by drawing food samples regularly from all sources viz. Manufacturer, Wholesalers and Retailers/suppliers and to take strict action against the offenders under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954.