

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:880

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015

Food Adulteration

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

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

- (a) the number of incidence of food adulteration reported, inspection/raids conducted, cases registered, food items found unfit for human consumption and convictions made during each of the last three years and the current year, State and UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has recently lodged a case against a multinational food manufacturing company with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission on behalf of consumers for allegedly selling processed and packaged food containing heavy metal and giving misleading information and if so, the details and the present status thereof;
- (c) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has asked the State food safety commissioners to increase surveillance on packaged food products in order to ensure their compliance with food safety regulatory and manufacturing norms, and if so, the follow up action taken by the States thereon; and
- (d) the further measures being taken by the Government to regulate use of chemicals in packaged food items, create consumer awareness on food adulterations and ensure that the food manufacturing/processing companies comply with the laid down regulatory/manufacturing standards?

Answer

- (a): The information made available by the State/UT Governments in respect of food samples collected, tested, found not conforming to the prescribed standards, and action taken against the violation of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, Rules and Regulations thereunder, during last three years is indicated in Annexures I, II and III.
- (b): The Department of Consumer Affairs has informed that it has decided to file a complaint with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission against Nestle India on Maggi noodles related issue.
- (c): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India regularly takes up issues relating to enforcement of the provisions of the FSS Act with the State/UT authorities, through communications and interactions during the meetings of the Central Advisory Committee.
- (d): The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 primarily rests with the States/ UTs. Random sampling and testing of food products is done by the Officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/ UTs for ensuring compliance with the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules/Regulations. In cases, where the food samples are found to be non-conforming, action as per provisions of the FSS Act is taken.

Regular action is also taken to generate awareness among the general public about adulteration and presence of harmful pesticides and antibiotics residue in food products including fruits, vegetables and pulses. The website and Facebook pages of FSSAI contain information on methods for checking adulteration at home, pictures showing good cooking practices including washing of vegetables to remove possible pesticide contaminations. Further, awareness campaigns are also organized through "Jago Grahak Jago" with the Department of Consumer Affairs.