

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1093
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24th JULY, 2026**

ADULTERATION IN FOOD ITEMS

1093. SHRI RAJABHAU PARAG PRAKASH WAJE:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the increasing instances reported from various parts of the country, including Maharashtra, where inspections have allegedly detected adulteration and contamination in commonly consumed food items such as milk, edible oils, spices, sweets, temple prasad, beverages and other essential food products, posing a serious threat to public health, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of food samples tested and found unsafe or adulterated, prosecutions launched, convictions secured and licences suspended or cancelled under the food safety laws during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government, including stricter quality standards, enhanced surveillance, rapid testing infrastructure, higher penalties, traceability systems and a time-bound national action plan to ensure safe, unadulterated food for every citizen and curb food adulteration across the country?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (c): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is mandated to lay 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. The implementation and enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments.

To regulate food businesses engaged in the sale of food products, FSSAI has prescribed standards for various food products under the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. FSSAI has also notified Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 which prescribes limits for pesticide residues, heavy metals, toxins, etc. present in food products.

Around 98% of the Food Business Operators (FBOs) fall within the jurisdiction of the State/UT Food Safety Authorities. Accordingly, the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of the FSS Act, 2006 primarily rests with the State/UT Food Safety Authorities within their respective jurisdictions.

For compliance with the set standards, limits, & other statutory requirements under the Act and regulations made thereunder, FSSAI, through its 4 (four) Regional Offices and State/UT food safety authorities conducts localized/targeted special enforcement and surveillance drives, inspections and sampling activities for various food products including milk and milk products throughout the year. If any deviations from the standards or violations to the Food Safety and Standards Regulation (FSSR) have been observed, the defaulting Food Business Operators (FBOs) have been subjected to regulatory actions, including punitive measures, as stipulated under the FSS Act, 2006 and regulations made thereunder. The number of inspections conducted against the FBOs during the last three years is as below:-

Financial Year	Number of Inspection
2023-24	3,57,072
2024-25	4,01,391
2025-26*	5,20,566

* Data for the year 2025-26 is provisional.

The number of Licenses suspended and cancelled in last 5 years is as below:-

Financial Year	Total Suspended	Total Cancelled
2025-26	704	4764
2024-25	769	1679
2023-24	791	1505
2022-23	1100	1715
2021-22	1097	1830
Total	4461	11493

Details of enforcement action taken for all non-conforming foods products (including adulteration) across the country (State wise) including Maharashtra in the last 5 years is annexed at **Annexure-I, II, III, IV and V** respectively.

Measures taken to strengthen the laboratory testing, surveillance and consumer awareness regarding food safety standards across the country are as:

- For the safety of the food and food products through testing, FSSAI has notified 259 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for analysis of food samples and 24 Referral Food Laboratories for the analysis of appeal samples. These laboratories belong to the States/UTs, various Government Institutions/Departments and private entities. FSSAI provides technical and financial support to the State Food Safety Authorities, to strengthen the food testing infrastructure in States & UTs. FSSAI has also provided assistance under the scheme "Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country including provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs" (SoFTeL) to various States and UTs.
- To strengthen the laboratory capacity, from 2017 to till date FSSAI has conducted 222 training programmes for its notified food testing laboratories in which 3937 participants have been trained.
- Mobile Food Testing Laboratory (MFTL) or "Food Safety on Wheels" (FSW) ensures the widest outreach for food testing, training and awareness programme, especially in the villages, towns and remote areas. Currently, 305 FSWs are deployed across 35 States/UTs.
- The "Magic Box" is a compact and user-friendly kit containing simple, rapid test methods to detect common food adulterants in seven different food commodities. It aims to identify adulteration in everyday food items such as milk, spices, oils, and grains.
- Detect Adulteration with Rapid Test (DART) book covers 44 tests that can be performed easily at household level with the help of water and simple solutions like tincture of iodine for food products like Milk & Milk Products, Oils & Fats, Sugar & Confectionary, Food Grains & its products, Spices & Condiments etc. These tests also include sensory evaluation tests for establishing authentication of food products. DART book depicts the differences between pure and adulterated food product through pictorial representation.
- Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAPID) Kits are advanced, easy to use, portable and handheld devices and don't require any sophisticated equipment or conventional

reagents to conduct the tests. So far, 88 RAFT kits have been approved. These kits help to reduce the screening time of the food products at the field level and thereby accelerate surveillance as well as monitoring activities.

- The FSSAI also carries out a nation-wide movement 'Eat Right India' with a focus on preventive and promotive healthcare through social and behavioural change through State Food Safety Authorities. Financial assistance is provided to the States/UTs for spreading consumer awareness.
- FSSAI has launched various campaigns such as “#No To Adulteration” to raise consumer awareness about food adulteration and how to identify adulterated products. These initiatives include advertisements, educational materials, and online platforms to spread awareness.
- Videos “How to Check for Adulteration” on its official YouTube channel, which includes short videos demonstrating methods to detect adulteration in various food items, including milk and milk products, edible oil etc. These Information Education Communication (IEC) materials are available in regional languages too and are showcased at various public events and campaigns.
- Complaints/concerns of consumers and FBO are received through various channels such as Web portal, Mobile App, FSSAI Helpline, State helpline, Twitter, Facebook, etc. Complaints on Food Safety Connect Portal is part of the online Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS). Complaints are attended by the respective State food safety authorities and in cases, where the food samples are found non-conforming, penal actions are initiated against the defaulting FBOs as per the provisions of FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder.
- FSSAI is also carrying out an awareness campaign, "#HarLabelKuchKahtaHai", to empower citizens with label literacy for healthier eating and informed choices. This initiative educates consumers on key elements like nutritional information (calories, fats, sugars, protein), ingredient lists, allergen warnings, and date markings.

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the Year 2025-2026					
S. No.	State	Samples analyzed	No. of Samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Decided with Penalty	No. of Convictions
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	5,798	429	196	16
3	Arunachal Pradesh	191	10	1	0
4	Assam	1,444	117	0	0
5	Bihar	1,850	94	25	0
6	Chandigarh	603	53	71	17
7	Chhattisgarh	2,065	214	200	2
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	151	0	0	0
9	Delhi	1,684	109	32	16
10	Goa	2,492	321	12	0
11	Gujarat	11,903	824	842	65
12	Haryana	2,335	723	1,424	116
13	Himachal Pradesh	1,589	321	359	9
14	Jammu & Kashmir	6,546	664	1,368	14
15	Jharkhand	1,281	356	73	0
16	Karnataka	13,349	537	248	33
17	Kerala	16,746	1,863	1,026	330
18	Ladakh	519	26	12	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	12,448	757	1,790	32
21	Maharashtra	7,694	1,335	2,445	8
22	Manipur	570	0	1	0
23	Meghalaya	388	22	0	0
24	Mizoram	198	1	0	0
25	Nagaland	238	13	0	0
26	Orissa	1,110	61	0	0
27	Puducherry	388	84	0	0
28	Punjab	7,809	1,031	723	25
29	Rajasthan	17,325	4,594	2,695	31
30	Sikkim	418	7	6	0
31	Tamil Nadu	44,603	3,984	1,359	857
32	Telangana	3,576	398	0	0
33	Tripura	304	14	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	39,519	20,427	14,890	342
35	Uttarakhand	1,937	224	243	5
36	West Bengal	14,737	410	1,837	0
	Total	2,23,808	40,023	31,878	1,918

* The data for FY 2025-26 is provisional and subject to revision based on the outcome of further lab testing and court proceedings.

Annexure-II

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the year 2024-2025					
S. No.	State/UT	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Decided with Penalty	No. of Convictions
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	810	4	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	5984	514	464	8
3	Arunachal Pradesh	125	9	7	0
4	Assam	1705	234	0	0
5	Bihar	2863	124	25	0
6	Chandigarh	374	65	116	41
7	Chhattisgarh	2069	270	143	6
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	56	0	0	0
9	Delhi	2624	130	18	16
10	Goa	1172	74	11	0
11	Gujarat	12387	901	859	91
12	Haryana	2233	500	599	59
13	Himachal Pradesh	1587	293	471	0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	6955	651	1,239	29
15	Jharkhand	364	138	52	0
16	Karnataka	9371	662	283	32
17	Kerala	10767	1635	1,088	206
18	Ladakh	417	45	38	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	13920	1635	2,597	22
21	Maharashtra	5403	1250	1,147	0
22	Manipur	126	1	2	0
23	Meghalaya	388	5	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	2	0	0
25	Nagaland	223	11	0	0
26	Orissa	2282	273	27	0
27	Puducherry	173	0	0	0
28	Punjab	4131	748	333	8
29	Rajasthan	13840	3788	3,114	30
30	Sikkim	254	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	18071	2240	1,536	492
32	Telangana	3347	324	125	0
33	Tripura	123	5	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	30380	16500	14,920	215
35	Uttarakhand	1509	140	256	4
36	West Bengal	14502	1217	672	6
	Total	170535	34388	30142	1265

Annexure-III

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the year 2023-24					
S. No.	State/UT	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Decided with penalty	No. of Convictions
1	Andaman And Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	6439	472	646	8
3	Arunachal Pradesh	501	11	2	0
4	Assam	1139	125	0	0
5	Bihar	2806	126	79	0
6	Chandigarh	311	49	87	52
7	Chhattisgarh	1373	167	86	2
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	185	0	0	0
9	Delhi	3412	150	36	12
10	Goa	599	16	17	0
11	Gujarat	15841	910	1701	65
12	Haryana	3485	856	593	47
13	Himachal Pradesh	1618	401	376	2
14	Jammu & Kashmir	9057	750	1612	22
15	Jharkhand	384	292	59	0
16	Karnataka	5492	286	75	16
17	Kerala	10792	1304	854	134
18	Ladakh	638	11	19	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	13998	2022	1938	46
21	Maharashtra	5087	1174	154	0
22	Manipur	168	3	0	0
23	Meghalaya	123	7	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	138	3	3	0
26	Orissa	2003	252	0	0
27	Puducherry	31	0	0	0
28	Punjab	6041	929	1204	102
29	Rajasthan	18536	3493	2181	12
30	Sikkim	231	0	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	18146	2237	2195	478
32	Telangana	6156	973	425	0
33	Tripura	87	0	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	27750	16183	14627	163
35	Uttarakhand	1998	192	332	0
36	West Bengal	5948	414	285	0
	Total	170513	33808	29586	1161

Annexure-IV

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the year 2022-23					
S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Convicted with penalty	No. of Conviction
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1200	46	58	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	3607	314	339	12
3	Arunachal Pradesh	258	11	0	0
4	Assam	602	99	0	0
5	Bihar	2935	92	39	0
6	Chandigarh	473	64	27	8
7	Chhattisgarh	1468	96	119	8
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	164	10	13	0
9	Delhi	3133	255	86	10
10	Goa	699	103	11	0
11	Gujarat	14562	978	547	24
12	Haryana	4445	1425	915	35
13	Himachal Pradesh	2720	729	93	1
14	Jammu & Kashmir	13502	1195	1592	15
15	Jharkhand	943	370	44	8
16	Karnataka	3416	322	191	15
17	Kerala	8533	1362	454	33
18	Ladakh	220	6	23	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	12507	2092	1908	71
21	Maharashtra	11077	1340	198	5
22	Manipur	169	4	0	0
23	Meghalaya	409	41	0	0
24	Mizoram	140	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	109	6	0	0
26	Odisha	1368	367	47	0
27	Puducherry	0	0	0	0
28	Punjab	8179	1724	1404	5
29	Rajasthan	13184	3965	2435	4
30	Sikkim	279	0	4	0
31	Tamil Nadu	24188	7924	3714	678
32	Telangana	4809	894	315	0
33	Tripura	31	8	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	30140	18108	13148	251
35	Uttarakhand	1839	342	507	5
36	West Bengal	6203	334	233	0
Total		177511	44626	28464	1188

Annexure-V

Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products (including adulteration) during the year 2021-22					
S. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Convicted with penalty	No. of Conviction
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	850	4	5	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	5290	533	484	6
3	Arunachal Pradesh	108	2	0	0
4	Assam	520	67	5	0
5	Bihar	555	17	75	0
6	Chandigarh	388	28	60	1
7	Chhattisgarh	1436	180	90	6
8	Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	234	0	7	0
9	Delhi	1956	218	89	27
10	Goa	200	14	2	0
11	Gujarat	13663	824	668	14
12	Haryana	4235	1182	78	21
13	Himachal Pradesh	1745	308	249	0
14	Jammu & Kashmir	8109	1735	1931	4
15	Jharkhand	175	85	42	8
16	Karnataka	5844	150	125	0
17	Kerala	7855	925	237	10
18	Ladakh	47	19	12	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	16059	2900	2030	72
21	Maharashtra	9580	1454	787	12
22	Manipur	236	3	1	1
23	Meghalaya	70	5	0	0
24	Mizoram	0	0	0	0
25	Nagaland	127	14	0	0
26	Odisha	1168	260	52	0
27	Puducherry	5	2	2	0
28	Punjab	6768	1059	0	8
29	Rajasthan	10386	2891	626	1
30	Sikkim	66	5	0	0
31	Tamil Nadu	16363	3778	2884	360
32	Telangana	3077	353	77	0
33	Tripura	31	0	0	0
34	Uttar Pradesh	21987	13153	8585	118
35	Uttarakhand	2511	560	182	1
36	West Bengal	2701	207	52	1
Total		144345	32935	19437	671

