

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2298
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31th JULY, 2026**

ADULTERATION IN ENERGY DRINKS

†2298. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:

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

- (a) whether adulterated energy drinks are being sold on a large scale in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether a large number of people are falling victim to cancer, paralysis and heart diseases due to the high caffeine content in these adulterated drinks, if so, the details thereof along with the number of such cases reported in the country so far; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government against the manufacturers and sellers of adulterated energy drinks?

**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.

FSSAI vide advisory dated 28.03.2024 has clarified that 'Health Drink' is not defined/ standardized anywhere under the FSS Act, 2006 or rules and regulations made thereunder. Therefore, the food products licensed under 'Proprietary Food' with the nearest category-Dairy Based Beverage Mix or Cereal Based Beverage Mix or Malt Based Beverage being sold in the e-commerce website under the category 'Health Drink', 'Energy Drink' have been advised to remove / de-link such drinks / beverages from the category of 'Health Drinks / Energy Drinks' on their website and place such products in the appropriate category as provided under the extant law.

As per the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 the Caffeinated Beverage *"shall contain not less than 145 mg per liter and not more than 300 mg per litre total caffeine from whatever sources it may be derived in the formulation of the product". Further, the label of the product is required to carry the declaration, consume not more than 500 ml per day.*" The standards are specified based on scientific risk assessment carried out by the independent Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee of FSSAI, taking into account available scientific evidence, dietary exposure and country-specific requirements and are substantially harmonized with the internationally accepted norms.

FSSAI has taken many measures to curb adulteration in the food products such as awareness campaigns like “#No To Adulteration”, “How to Check for Adulteration” and also provided funds for Mobile Food Testing Laboratory (MFTL) or “Food Safety on wheels” (FSW), Food Safety Magic Boxes. The FSSAI has approved Rapid Analytical Food Testing (RAPID) Kits and published Detect Adulteration with Rapid Test (DART) Booklet to detect adulteration.

Further, 15 notices have been issued to FBOs during FY 2026–27 for violations of the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020. Details of enforcement action taken by the State/UT Food Safety Authorities against non-conforming food products including cases of adulteration, during 2025-26, are as under:-

Details of Enforcement for the year 2025-26 including Beverages and Caffeinated Beverages				
Year	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found non-conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
			Decided with Penalty	No. of Convictions
2025-26*	223,808	40023	31878	1918

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

Note- The cases launched and penalties raised may include the data of the samples analysed in the previous year.
