

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2281
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31th JULY, 2026**

INCIDENCE OF FOOD ADULTERATION IN MAHARASHTRA

2281. SHRI BHASKAR MURLIDHAR BHAGARE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the increasing incidence of food adulteration across the country, if so, the details thereof along with the number of food samples collected, samples found non-conforming and enforcement actions taken by the Government in Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year, year-wise;
- (b) the details of prosecutions launched, licences suspended or cancelled and penalties imposed in Maharashtra against manufacturers, traders and vendors found guilty of food adulteration;
- (c) whether the Government has provided any financial or technical assistance for strengthening food testing laboratories, mobile food testing units and surveillance mechanisms in Maharashtra, particularly in its tribal and remote districts, if so, the details thereof, district-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has undertaken any special awareness and enforcement drives against food adulteration in Maharashtra during festive seasons and in rural markets, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to strengthen digital traceability, rapid food testing and consumer awareness to curb food adulteration in the said State?

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

- (a) to (e): 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.

Details of enforcement action taken against all non-conforming food products (including adulteration) in Maharashtra during the last three years are annexed at **Annexure-I**. Details of the number of licences suspended and cancelled in Maharashtra during the last three years are annexed at **Annexure II**.

FSSAI has undertaken following measures 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. Out of these, 39 FSSAI's notified food testing laboratories are located in Maharashtra, comprising 05 State Food Testing Laboratories, 02 other Government Laboratories, and 32 Private Laboratories. 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. Assistance is provided to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Laboratories at Mumbai & Chhatrapati. Sambhajnagar under SoFTeL initiative, amounting to Rs. 19.21 Crore.
- 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) provides 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 State of Maharashtra has 02 MFTLs.
- 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. Under the Eat Right India initiatives, Maharashtra has been awarded a total of 2,044 certificates.
- 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.
- 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.

Annexure-I

Details of Enforcement action taken for all non-conforming foods products (including adulteration) for Maharashtra					
S. No.	Year	No. of Samples Analysed	No. of Samples found Non-Conforming	Civil Cases	Criminal Cases
				Decided with Penalty	No. of Convictions
1	2025-26*	7,694	1,335	2,445	8
2	2024-25	5403	1250	1,147	0
3	2023-24	5087	1174	154	0

*Data is provisional.

Annexure-II

Details of Licenses Suspended and Cancelled in last 03 years in Maharashtra		
Financial Year	Total Suspended	Total Cancelled
2025-26*	79	13
2024-25	63	19
2023-24	34	39
Total	176	71

*Data is provisional