

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3418
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07th AUGUST, 2026**

CASES OF FOOD ADULTERATION IN MAHARASHTRA

**†3418. DR. SHIVAJI BANDAPPA KALGE:
SHRI NILESH DNYANDEV LANKE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that, despite the efforts of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), cases of food adulteration are not decreasing in the State of Maharashtra, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether there has been a massive increase in processing of artificially ripening of fruits and vegetables using chemical substances, which cause serious harm to the health of public, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the methodology, systems and detection methods being adopted by the Government to control this illegal and dangerous activity; and
- (d) the number of cases of such artificial ripening activities that have come to light during the last five years along with the action taken by the Government thereon, year-wise?

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

(a) to (d): 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 as follows:-

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*	7694	1335	2445	8
2	2024-25	5403	1250	1147	0
3	2023-24	5087	1174	154	0

*Data is provisional.

Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions On Sales) Regulations, 2011 prohibits the use of carbide gas in ripening of fruits by mandating that *"No person shall sell or offer or expose for sale or have in his premises for the purpose of sale under any description, fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas, commonly known as carbide gas; provided that fruits may be artificially ripened by use of Ethylene gas at a concentration upto 100 ppm (100µl/L) depending upon the crop, variety and maturity".* Sub regulation 2.3.6 of the same regulations provides for Sale of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables which states that *"The Fresh Fruits and Vegetables shall be free from rotting and free from coating of waxes, mineral oil and colours. Provided that fresh fruits may be coated with bees wax (white and yellow) or carnauba wax or shellac wax at level not exceeding Good Manufacturing Practices under proper label declaration as provided in Regulation 2.4.5 (44) of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) regulations, 2011."*

Further, the FSSAI has published manuals on Methods of Analysis of various food commodities including Fruit and Vegetable Products, which serves as a comprehensive guide for the testing and analysis of fruits and vegetables products.

Since, 98% of the food businesses are under the regulatory control of the State Food Safety Authorities, vide the advisories dated 03rd April 2023, 21st November 2023, 16th May 2025 and 16th April 2026, Food Safety Commissioners of all the States/UTs have been directed to intensify inspections and maintain strict vigilance over fruit markets/mandis within their respective jurisdiction. States/UTs undertake Special Enforcement Drives to ensure strict monitoring of the sale of fresh fruits to prevent the use of unauthorized or prohibited artificial ripening agents, synthetic colours, and non-permitted wax coatings.

Details of inspections, seizure/destruction made against artificially ripened fruit across the country including Maharashtra during years 2020-21 to 2024-25 are as under: -

Year	Inspections conducted over the past five years to detect the use of artificial ripening agents in fruits	Samples analysed	Non-conforming samples (found artificially ripened with non-permitted agents)	Seizures/destructions made (in kgs)
2020-21	10032	479	10	5037.6

2021-22	11217	352	31	8428.6
2022-23	14185	704	9	10182
2023-24	17180	1450	45	19582.2
2024-25	20365	1953	54	42395.46
