

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3422
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07TH AUGUST, 2026**

MICROPLASTIC CONTAMINATION IN FOOD PRODUCTS

3422. DR. THIRUMAAVALAVAN THOLKAPPIYAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has any details regarding the project initiated by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), to assess microplastic contamination in food products and to develop methods for its detection, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Government has any data or details regarding detections made since the introduction of the aforementioned project, if so, the details thereof, along with the total number of such cases detected so far?

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

(a) to (b): 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 has funded the project by CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow, ICAR-Central institute of Fisheries Technology (ICAR-CIFT), Kochi and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani titled "Micro-and nano-plastics as emerging food contaminants: Establishing validated Methodologies and understanding the prevalence in different food matrices". The objectives of the project are:-

- i. Development and validation of analytical methods for identification and quantification of micro/nano-plastics in foods matrices.
- ii. Inter- and intra-laboratory comparison of developed methods in identified food matrices.
- iii. Surveillance and determination of exposure levels of micro-/nano-plastics in identified foods matrices.

FSSAI has also notified the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, wherein, requirements for food-grade packaging are specified. It mandates that any material which comes in direct contact with food or likely to come in contact with food used for packaging, preparation, storing, wrapping, transportation and sale or service of food shall be of food grade quality. It also prescribes standards for plastic materials intended to come into contact with food products, which makes reference to the corresponding Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specifications. These standards are on par with international standards, thereby ensuring consistency with global food safety practices. Further, it specifies that all packaging materials of plastic origin shall pass the prescribed overall migration limit of 60mg/kg or 10mg/dm² when tested as per IS 9845 with no visible colour migration.
