

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

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 90
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22ND NOVEMBER, 2019
ADULTERATION OF MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS**

***90. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:**

SHRI SANJAY SADASHIV RAO MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the World Health Organization (WHO) has recently issued an advisory to the Government stating that if adulteration of milk and milk products is not checked immediately, 87 per cent of citizens would likely be suffering from serious diseases like cancer by the year 2025 and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(b) whether around 68.7 per cent of milk and milk products sold in the country are not as per the standards laid down by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) as they contain detergent/ other contaminants like urea, starch, glucose and formalin which provide thickness and preserve the items for longer periods, if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;

(c) whether a Committee was constituted by the Government to equip the FSSAI with more powers to investigate the ground realities of the issue and submit its feedback and if so, the details thereof;

(d) the major recommendations of the Committee along with the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) whether the Government has urged the heads of all agencies involved in checking adulteration of food products to intensify the sampling process in checking adulteration of food products and if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 90* FOR 22ND NOVEMBER, 2019**

(a) No such advisory has been issued by World Health Organisation (WHO) to the Government of India and the same has been confirmed from WHO country office in India by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

(b) No. The Nationwide Milk Safety and Quality Survey conducted by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2018 revealed that only 7% (456 out of total 6,432 samples) had contaminants (antibiotics, pesticides and aflatoxin M₁) that make milk unsafe for consumption. Further, only 12 out of a total of 6,432 samples had adulterants that affect the safety of milk. These 12 samples include 6 samples adulterated with hydrogen peroxide, 3 samples adulterated with detergents, 2 samples adulterated with urea and one sample was found to have neutralizers.

(c) & (d) No such Committee has been constituted by the Government.

(e): In order to ensure the availability of safe food products including milk to the consumers and for keeping a check on adulteration, Food Safety Commissioners of States/UTs have been advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil by intensifying surveillance during festive seasons when demand of milk and milk products increase; by maintaining strict vigil on milk chilling units; and by regularly drawing food samples from all sources viz. manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers and to take strict action against the offenders under the provisions of FSS Act, 2006. They have also been advised to draw milk samples, both from processing plants as well as raw milk, from all major cities and towns with focus on the areas where non-compliance was observed during the survey.

Regular surveillance, monitoring and inspection are being carried out by the Officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check compliance of the provisions laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the rules and regulations made thereunder. In cases where samples are found to be non-conforming to the prescribed norms and standards, penal action is initiated against the defaulting FBOs as per the provisions of the penal provisions under the Act.
