

(c) Besides laying down standards for various food articles and regulations on use of additives, labelling, contaminants etc., the Central Government issues appropriate directions and alerts to ensure safety of food. Penal action is taken under the provisions of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 in case of violation of the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954/PFA Rules, 1955. Considering the need for a comprehensive approach to food safety in the country, the Parliament has passed the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, to replace the existing PFA Act, 1954 and some other food related laws. Under the provisions of the new Act, the Government has constituted the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India to carry out the purposes of said Act. As envisaged in the Act, the Central Advisory Committee, a Scientific Committee and 8 Scientific Panels have also been constituted. The State/UT Governments also have been advised to appoint Food Safety Commissioners and other Officers for implementation of the Act.

(d) The implementation of PFA Act/Rules is entrusted to the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/Union Territories. The information regarding quantity of adulterated food items seized by them is not maintained centrally.

Unified healthcare programme

2681.MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to launch a unified healthcare programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the proposed programme will cater to the needs of both urban and rural poor in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) Government has already launched National Rural Health Mission in the year 2005 with an objective to provide accessible, affordable and accountable health care services to rural population including rural poor. No separate programme for urban poor has been launched. However NRHM covers urban poor as well by strengthening district and block level hospitals. Programmes for TB, Malaria, Family Welfare, Immunization, Janani Suraksha Yojana cover urban areas as well.