

(c) Considering the need for a comprehensive approach to food safety in the country, the Parliament has passed the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006 to replace the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and some other food related Orders, The FSSA has come into force on 5th August, 2011. This Act envisages a new structure at the State/district levels for effective implementation of the law.

Adulteration of food items

3649. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the adulteration in food items and use of harmful chemicals in cereals and pulses is increasing by the day particularly in big cities;

(b) if so, whether the State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) have completely failed to check the rising trend of food adulteration; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to amend the Food Adulteration Act suitably and include stricter provisions therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) The implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 rests with the State/UT Governments. As per the information received from States/UTs, the average adulteration of food items including cereal and pulses on the basis of samples examined during year 2010 was 12.43% (excluding the State of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh).

(c) Considering the need for a comprehensive approach to food safety in the country, the Government has enacted the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006 to replace the erstwhile Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and some other food related Orders. The FSSA has come into force on 5th August, 2011, which provides for punishment ranging from imprisonment for 6 months and fine upto Rs. 1 lakh to imprisonment for life and also with fine which shall not be less than Rs. 10 lakhs, for selling unsafe food.

Grants for medical colleges under PMSSY in Vidarbha

3650. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: