

(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:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Maharashtra had requested sanctioning of grants under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) for six colleges in backward region of Vidarbha on 20 May, 2010;

(b) as grants were not sanctioned till 31 March, 2011 from the budgetary allocation of 2010-11, whether their cases would be considered during the current financial year 2011-12; and

(c) if so, by when the grants are likely to be sanctioned so that concerned colleges could start drawing up plans for effective utilization of these grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal in July, 2010 for sanctioning of grants under PMSSY for upgradation of seven medical college institutions in the State of Maharashtra, which include Shri Vasantao Naik Government Medical College, Yavatmal; and Government Medical College & Hospital, Akola, in the Vidarbha region.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Unsatisfactory healthcare provisions in rural areas

†3651. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of arbitrary behaviour and not providing proper treatment have been received from patients against the surgeons/doctors of various small and big hospitals especially in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is paucity of doctors in most rural hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether Government has received complaints regarding hospitals in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY): (a) and (b) Health being a state subject, Health Centres/Hospitals are managed by respective State/UT Governments and day to day functioning of Health Centres/Hospitals including complaints against doctors are handled by them.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.