## Complaints over food adulteration

883. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints of adulteration and using harmful chemicals in various food items are rising every year in various parts of the country;

<sup>\*</sup> Includes PM-JAY extension to State funded categories of beneficiaries

- (b) if so, the details of such complaints reported to Government during the last three years;
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to check incidents of adulteration in food items; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by Government to curb adulteration and penalise the people involved in such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) and (b) Cases of adulteration, use of excess chemicals in various food products have come to the notice of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Enforcement of provisions of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act. 2006. Rules and Regulations made thereunder primarily lies with the State/UT Governments. As per the information available from States/UTs, the number of food samples analyzed, found non-conforming and action taken thereon for the last three years is given in Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) All Food Business Operators (FBOs) are required to comply with the provisions of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act. 2006. and Rules and Regulations made thereunder. This Act contains penal provisions for different types of offences including adulteration.

Implementation and enforcement of FSS Act, 2006 primarily lies with State/UT Governments. In order to make available good quality foodstuffs to the consumers, regular surveillance, monitoring and inspections are being carried out by Food Safety Officials of State/UT Governments. For keeping a check on the problems of food adulteration in the country, the state food authorities have been advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil 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 the FSS Act. 2006. The Food Safety Officers in the States/UTs draw food samples on regular basis and send them for analysis in the food laboratories. In cases where samples are found to be non-conforming, penal action is initiated against the defaulting FBOs as per provisions of the FSS Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made there under.

Further, consumers are being educated about detection of adulteration and steps to be taken for reducing harmful effects of chemicals. To combat adulteration in commonly adulterated food items, such as milk, spices and condiments, honey, water, Oils and Fats, FSSA.I has also released a Detect Adulteration with Rapid Test (DART) booklet which is a compilation of common quick tests for detection of food adulterants at household by the citizens themselves so as to induce awareness among the consumers about food safety.

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Consumers are also being educated about importance of washing fruits and vegetab.es before consumption to avoid harmful effects of pesticides/insecticides residue in fruits and vegetables. FSSAI has also asked State Food Safety Commissioners to undertake awareness campaign on pesticides/insecticides residues in fruits and vegetables.

Statement

Details regarding number of samples of food products analysed, found nonconforming to the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
and Rules and Regulations made thereunder and prosecution
launched during the last three years

Year	Number of samples analysed	Number of samples found non-conforming	Number of cases in which Civil/	Number of cases of Conviction	Cases of penalty	
					No. of cases in	Amount of penalty
			cases		Penalties	
76			launched		imposed	
2015-16	72499	16133	9979	540	3669	₹21,65,98,989
2016-17	78340	18325	13080	1605	4757	₹ 17,01,93,266
2017-18	99353	24262	15121	5198	7627	₹25,23,75,367

Source: States/UTs

## Shortage of lab assistants in CGHS dispensaries of Rajasthan

884. SHRI RAMKUMAR VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of Lab Assistants in the CGHS Dispensaries across the entire State of Rajasthan; and
  - (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?