

Government of India
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Department of Consumer Affairs

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4215
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.03.2025

REJECTED AND EXPIRED FOOD ITEMS

4215. SHRI EATALA RAJENDER:

Will the Minister of **CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is ensuring that rejected and expired food items are not being rebranded and sold for public consumption and also FSSAI has directed all licensed food manufacturers and importers to submit quarterly data on such foodstuffs through an online portal and the latest directive covers three key areas i.e. quantity of products failing internal quality testing, volume of expired or returned products from the food supply chain and detailed records of product disposal including destruction, auction or alternative use with specific buyer and waste disposal agency information; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this direction along with action taken on violations found till now, State-wise and the corrective steps proposed for future?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI B.L.VERMA)

(a) to (b) : Food Safety & Standards Authority of India has issued an advisory dated 16.12.2024 regarding the proper management of expired or rejected food products to ensure that such products do not re-enter the supply chain and compromise consumer safety.

As per regulatory provision under Section 26 and 27 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and Schedule IV of FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Regulations, 2011, Food Business Operators (FBOs) are mandated to segregate and clearly mark rejected/ expired products and follow FIFO (First In First Out)/ FEFO (First Expired First Out) stock rotation systems.

FBOs are directed to maintain accurate records of actions taken on such products, including destruction, auction for alternative use, or disposal through authorized agencies, ensuring these items do not re-enter the food chain.

As per Schedule IV of the FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Regulations, 2011, FBOs are mandated to ensure proper segregation and distinguishable marking of raw, processed, rejected, recalled, or returned products to prevent cross-contamination and misuse.

In order to ensure the above, regular inspections and audits are conducted by FSSAI through Food Safety Officers of Central and State Authorities to verify compliance with storage, segregation, and hygiene requirements under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The provisions under Chapter IX of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 related to offenses and penalties, empower FSSAI to take appropriate action, including imposing penalty, suspension or cancellation of licenses etc. against FBOs found violating storage and segregation norms.
