



STUNG BY ADULTERATION CHARGE, FOOD SAFETY DEPARTMENT ON RAID SPREE

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Left red-faced by the recent revelation by the Society of Pollution and Environment Conservation (SPEC) of 84.5 percent of the food items available on the Char Dham Yatra and Kanwad Yatra route being adulterated, the food safety department has conducted raids at many shops selling eatables in Rishikesh town on Tuesday. The team led by the food safety officer, Rishikesh, Sanjay Tiwari found unhygienic conditions at many places.

The designated officer Food Safety Dehradun, G C Kandwal said that teams of the department had inspected some roadside eateries at Rishikesh railway station and Char Dham Yatra bus stand. He said that a total of 12 premises were inspected and notices were issued to six shopkeepers. One shopkeeper found selling sweets in unhygienic conditions was served notice and some sweets were destroyed by the team. The team instructed the shopkeepers to keep their premises clean and also to refrain from selling stale food items. Kandwal claimed that the drive would continue till the end of the Kanwad Yatra.

Meanwhile, the association of Uttarakhand Food Inspectors has questioned the credentials of the report published by the SPEC on adulteration. In a letter directed to secretary health and family welfare, the association said that the food inspectors are doing their duty and are keeping a close watch on the food items being sold on the Yatra route and collecting food samples regularly. The association questioned the authenticity of the findings of the SPEC and demanded it to share its finding with the department before it goes public with such reports.