

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Adhere to food safety standards, Health Dept tells vegetable vendors

Bathinda, June 8

Officials the district Health Department conducted a meeting with food business operators in the city to sensitise them to food safety and hygiene standards.

The meeting was part of the “Tandrust Punjab” campaign and was aimed at ensuring that people eat hygienic food products and vegetables.

Around 40 food business operators attended the meeting at the Bathinda Market Committee’s office near Dana Mandi area on Friday.

The Health Department officials sensitised these FBOs to harmful effects of using insecticides and pesticides in vegetables and fruits.

The Health Department would continue the awareness exercise for the coming one week and conduct meetings with food product sellers or manufactures, ice-cream makers, hotel and restaurants owners, confectioners and grocery store owners among others.

During the meeting, District Health Officer Ashok Monga said, “We have asked fruit and vegetable vendors to make sure that they either possess the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licence or get them registered as per their annual turnover/sale.”

Dr Monga added, “Maintaining hygiene and cleanliness of products and area where they are sold must be a priority for all vegetable and fruit sellers. It has been observed that oxytocin injection is used to increase the size and weight of vegetables and ethylene and calcium carbide is used for fruit ripening. If anybody is found to be using these materials then strict action will be taken against them.”

The fruit and vegetable sellers were also instructed to keep their stock covered and only fresh fruits and vegetables must be sold.