

FSSAI proposes strict action against adulteration

Invites State govts' views on planned changes in FSS Act

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The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) proposes to introduce stricter measures in the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act to deter adulteration with stringent punishments.

The food authority, which has sought State governments' views, is finalising its recommendations for amendments to be made to the FSS Act, 2006.

In a consolidated proposal of amendments, it has recommended a new section in the FSS Act — as Section 59 — that would lead to punishment for seven years, which can be extended up to life imprisonment besides a fine of ₹10 lakh, if individuals or businesses intentionally add adulterants to food products.

The punishment will apply whether or not it causes actual injury to the consumer.

“It is also in the light of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court,” it added.

Some of the other proposed amendments include introduction of definitions of referral laboratories and provisions for NABL accreditation besides new sections for definitions of proprietary food, novel food and traditional food among others in the Principle Act.

It has also proposed introduction of clauses that define the duties and responsibilities of State food authorities in a bid to make them more accountable.

Additionally, the FSSAI is proposing a “Food Safety and Nutrition Fund” to support its promotional and outreach activities among food businesses and consumers.

“The Authority shall establish a fund to be called the Food Safety and Nutrition Fund for the purpose of promoting food safety and healthy nutrition amongst food businesses and consumers through capacity building and outreach activities,” the proposal stated.