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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Statewide crackdown on spurious dairy products

Over 53 samples collected, raids to continue

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Officials of the Health Department took samples of skimmed milk being mixed with water in a drum to prepare khoya in Kaithal on Saturday. Tribune photo

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After Punjab's crackdown on spurious milk and dairy products, Haryana, too, saw statewide raids by the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Department on Saturday to ascertain the purity of milk products being sold across the state.

While the teams of the Health Department led by Food Safety Officers seized over 50 samples, these raids would continue tomorrow as well.

Saket Kumar, Commissioner, FDA, said that these samples would be sent to the food testing laboratories in Chandigarh as well as Karnal. “We will get the results in a fortnight or so. The idea of conducting these raids was to ensure that edible quality of dairy products is available to the consumers. Also, in view of the forthcoming festival season, we did not want spurious items being sold in the market,” he said.

According to information, a maximum of 11 samples were collected from Gurugram, 10 each from Faridabad, Kaithal and Ambala, seven from Rohtak, six each from Mewat and Rewari, five from Fatehabad, three from Mahendragarh and two from Sonapat though the FDA put the number of samples at 53.

In Ambala, the team took away samples of khoya, paneer, milk and desi ghee from popular manufacturers and suppliers in the city and cantonment. In Faridabad, the samples were collected from sweetshops, food items’ retailers and outlets supplying eatables from various parts and localities, including Old Faridabad, Palla, Kheri Pul, Dabua Colony and vegetable and fruit market of NIT.

According to Prithvi Singh, District Food Inspector, the samples had been lifted as part of the state-level drive to detect the supply of spurious food items in the market. Action would be taken against those whose samples would be found unfit for consumption, he said.

The Food Safety Authorities, Gurugram, conducted raids at various renowned dairies and collected 11 samples, three of khoya and eight of paneer. Small-time paneer sellers in local markets and dairies were also raided. “We are concentrating on individual vendors or dairies which have sprung up in all areas and are getting immensely popular,” said Food Safety Inspector KK Sharma.

In Mewat, raids were conducted at dairies being run from homes and catering to small sweetshops and even supplying to villages.

A team of health staff took 10 samples of khoya and paneer from various localities of Kaithal. The samples were collected from Dogran Gate, Siwan Gate, HUDA Market-19, Model Town, Dhand Road, SBI Road, Keorak Gate among others.