

FDA launches inquiry into use of tap water from toilet to make 'chutni' by railway food and beverages vendor

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The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has launched an inquiry into the alleged use of toilet water in the preparation of 'chutni' by a railway vendor based out of the Borivali Railway Station.



Food stalls on Central Railways platforms in Mumbai (Representative Image) | Photo Credit: BCCL

Mumbai: An official with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Maharashtra has told media outlets that the regulator has taken cognizance of pictures of a street-food vendor using tap water to cook food at the Borivali Railway Station along with the Mumbai suburban local train network. Pictures and videos of the vendor using tap water from a toilet to make 'chatni' for 'idli' are being widely circulated on social media with Indian internet users demanding accountability from the concerned department.

In May of last year, Western Railway (WR) reprimanded a food and beverages contractor after a video of one of his employees storing beverages in a train toilet before serving them to passengers emerged on social media. The responsible contractor was later identified as Krishna Enterprises, a Bandra-based caterer whose employees sold tea, coffee, soft drinks and edible items onboard trains crossing through various stations across Mumbai. The video in question which led to the contractor being slapped with a hefty fine was shot during a run of the Mumbai-Nizamuddin Garib Rath Express on April 26, 2018.

Shailesh Adhav, Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Mumbai, on video of a street-food vendor using tap water from a toilet at Borivali Railway Station to make 'chatni' for 'Idli':

We'll conduct an enquiry against him as well as others who use such methods to do business

According to news agency ANI's report on the recent instance which has come to the fore from Borivali Railway Station, Shailesh Adhav with the FDA has confirmed that the agency has taken cognizance of the matter and an inquiry has been launched into the matter to identify and bring vendors who indulge in such practices to task. More details in this regard are awaited.

Just earliest this month, the Central Railway (CR) issued a letter directing all railway station food stall owners to immediately halt the sale of lime juice and 'kala khatta' drinks to commuters. The move was the result of a video showing a vendor-employed worker using his bare hands to stir the lemonade, a crystal-clear violation of food safety and hygiene guidelines prescribed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).