

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS November 26th 2019

1. 3.7 % Food samples collected were unsafe, says FSSAI

Prelims Level: Constitutional Bodies, Regulatory Bodies.

Mains Level: GS-III Food Processing and related industries in India - Scope and Significance, Location, Upstream and Downstream Requirements, Supply Chain Management.

Why in News?

• Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on enforcement of norms has released a data has noted that 3.7% of the samples collected and analysed were found unsafe, 15.8% sub-standard and 9% samples had Labelling Defects.

About FSSAI:

- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous statutory body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act).
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI.
- The FSSAI comprises of a Chairperson and Twenty Two members out of which one third are to be women. The Chairperson of FSSAI is appointed by the Central Government.

Functions of FSSAI:

- Framing of regulations to lay down the standards and guidelines of food safety.
- Granting FSSAI food safety license and certification for food businesses.
- Laying down procedure and guidelines for laboratories in food businesses.
- To provide suggestions to the government in framing the policies.
- To collect data regarding contaminants in foods products, identification of emerging risks and introduction of rapid alert system.
- Creating an information network across the country about food safety.
- Promote general awareness about food safety and food standards.

Significance of the Report:

- Releasing the data for 2018-19 where 1, 06,459 samples were analysed, this was the first year the data had been compiled for unsafe, substandard and labelling defects separately.
- This would help authorities take precise corrective and preventive action.
- While there should be zero tolerance to unsafe food, sub-standard and labelling defects require greater efforts on capacity building of the businesses and standards as well as labelling requirements.

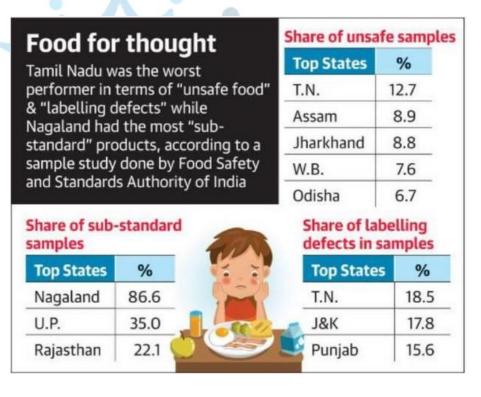
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Key Findings of Report:

- There has been a 7% increase in the number of samples analysed during 2018-19 compared to 2017-18.
- Compared to the previous year, 25% more samples were found non-conforming. This shows that there has been better targeting of enforcement efforts by States/UTs.
- There has been a 36% increase in civil cases launched and a 67% increase in the number of cases where penalties were imposed.
- The amount of penalty ₹32.58 crore— imposed has increased by 23% during 2018-19 compared to the previous year.
- There has been 86% increase in criminal cases launched. Since the conclusion of criminal cases takes time, 5,198 cases were concluded during 2017-18 that included a backlog of previous years.
- During the year there have been 701 convictions in criminal cases so far.

Best and Worst Performers:

- Ten States/UTs that have performed well include Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Delhi and Chandigarh.
- Ten States that have performed poorly include Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Telangana, and Uttarakhand.



Many of the poorly performing States have not been able to put in place full-time officers
and do not have proper testing laboratories despite the food safety law coming into force
over a decade ago.