



Food Adulteration Cases in MP

Why in News?

State Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Pratap Rao Jadhav, replied in the Rajya Sabha that, on average, **seven food adulteration cases are reported daily in Madhya Pradesh**, placing the **state third in India, after Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan**, for food safety violations.

Key Points

- **Penalties Under FSS Act:** In the financial year 2024-25, **2,597 cases** were penalized under the **Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006**, out of a total of **13,920 food samples tested**.
 - This reflects an increase of **659 cases compared to 2023-24**, when 1,938 penalties were imposed on 13,842 samples.
- **Trend Analysis:** Over the past five years, Madhya Pradesh has seen the **highest number of penalties imposed for food adulteration** among all states, following Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Food Adulteration

- **About:** As per [Food Safety and Standards Authority of India \(FSSAI\)](#), food adulteration refers to the intentional **addition, substitution, or removal of substances that negatively impact the nature, quality, or safety of food**.
 - It also includes unintentional contamination that may occur during cultivation, harvesting, storage, processing, transportation, or distribution.
- **Causes of Food Adulteration in India:**
 - Weak enforcement and fragmented food supply chains (80% in informal markets).
 - Lack of unified national policy and divergence from global safety standards.
 - Resource constraints in processing industries, reuse of frying oil, poor hygiene.
 - Pesticide residues and substandard fortification practices; misleading labeling.
- **Legal & Policy Framework:**
 - **FSSA, 2006 & FSSAI** – regulates production, import, sale, and standards.
 - **Packaging & Labelling Regulations, 2011** – ingredient, allergen, expiry disclosure.
 - **Consumer Protection Act, 2019** – right to compensation for adulterated food.
- **Recommended Measures:**
 - Formalize the food processing sector (e.g., PM FME Scheme).
 - Align regulations with global standards; amend FSSA.
 - Increase skilled workforce; promote industry-academia collaboration.
 - Strengthen surveillance, penalties, mobile labs, and supply chain management.
 - Adopt [One Health Approach](#) for upstream/downstream contamination control.

