

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2670
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2021**

BAN ON IMPORT OF HONEY FROM CHINA

2670. SHRI K.C. RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether honey sold by major brands and imported from countries like China is laced with sugar syrup as per investigation carried out by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE);
- (b) whether 10 out of 13 samples tested failed to clear Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Test which gives details of composition of the product;
- (c) whether FSSAI was asked to study the findings of CSE;
- (d) if so, outcome of the same;
- (e) details of 22 parameters that FSSAI mandated companies to comply with and any company ever failed to comply with the same; and
- (f) whether there are any plans to ban import of honey from China?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE**

(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a to d): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has published a report showing adulteration in honey with sugar syrups in major brands of honey manufactured and processed in the Country. It has studied the findings of CSE and has made end use declaration for all imported sugar syrups mandatory. Honey manufacturing units in India were inspected to find evidence of sugar syrups stored in their premises, but no such cases were found.

Further Scientific Panel of FSSAI has reviewed data pertaining to more than 7,500 samples of honey and found that no changes are required in the thresholds prescribed for various parameters on the basis of the evidence available. It has been reiterated that Nuclear

Magnetic Resonance Analysis is a database driven test and no major food regulator in the world has prescribed this test so far.

(e): FSSAI has mandated 17 parameters for compliance by Food Business Operators which have been notified. Action is taken by Food Safety Commissioners of respective State/ UT in case of violation.

(f): There is no such proposal with FSSAI. However, to ensure the quality of honey and to contain the misuse of imported Golden Syrup/Invert Sugar/Rice Syrup in production of honey, a direction has been issued to all Authorised Officers to seek details of manufacturer(s) with end use to whom the aforesaid imported products will be supplied and conduct proper scrutiny and keep a strict vigil before clearance of such consignments.

.....