

Regarding the alleged rampant problem of food adulteration in the country

SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI (VISAKHAPATNAM): Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir.

Sir, I rise to speak about the challenges in public health and food safety. When we get sick, we put medicines and drugs in our body, which are very highly regulated and there is a strong drug regulatory framework. But what makes us sick is eating poor and adulterated food, and that is not regulated as strongly.

So, I would like to highlight the crisis of food adulteration in the food supply chain and the alarming issue of food safety in our restaurants. We have seen a lot of this thing in the media and many Governments are trying to address it.

Sir, right now, I will highlight certain points. Firstly, the regulatory framework, I think, is not as strong as it should be. The other thing is that the penalty right now is too lenient for those who do any mistake. We are seeing a lot of establishments that really deviate from this and get away with a lot of adulteration and a lot of mixing of very unhealthy ingredients into the food that the customers are consuming. Their food testing infrastructure is also not very good. That has to be strengthened.

Sir, my suggestion is that the Government should address this issue. There are a couple of things that can happen. One is to ensure that the penalties become much stronger, and secondly, to ensure that the GST benefit is given to those who maintain food safety. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष : श्री बृजमोहन अग्रवाल - उपस्थित नहीं ।

12.28 hrs

(Shrimati Sandhya Ray *in the Chair*)

माननीय सभापति : श्री बृजमोहन अग्रवाल - उपस्थित नहीं ।

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