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Title: Need to take effective steps to check adulteration of food items.

DR. RATNA DE (HOOGHLY): Adulteration of food items has become a major menace. Now, even in tooth paste, ice-creams, we find adulteration. This is a very dangerous trend.

We have the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act but prosecution and convictions are not effective. Stringent measures should be taken against those found guilty of adulteration of food items. Law should take its course and it should take swiftly. Adulteration of food items should be made a non-bailable offence.

No doubt, several steps have been undertaken by the Government to check adulteration. The Government has come up with a new authority called the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. But cases of adulteration have not stopped. In fact, adulteration incidents have increased. Nothing concrete has come up from the Government till now to stop adulteration of food items. And we could see adulteration going on under our very nose and we have become hapless and helpless victims unable to check it.

I would like to urge very strongly, with the Government to keep strict vigil on the quality of food items, including ice-creams, and tooth paste and other essential items and safety of consumers should be kept paramount and stringent punishment should be meted out to those who indulge in this heinous crime of adulteration in food items, ice-creams, tooth paste, etc.