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Book cases against those adulterating food products: Udupi Deputy commissioner

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UDUPI: With children falling sick after consuming ice-candies manufactured from contaminated water, Udupi deputy commissioner Hephsiba Rani Korlapati on Tuesday directed the district food safety officer to file a case against those responsible.

Seventy-eight children had fallen sick across the district after consuming the ice-candies, the DC said while expressing her dissatisfaction at the fact that no action had been initiated against the manufacturer thus far.

Chairing the district food safety committee meeting at DC office, Hephsiba said booking a case against such spurious manufacturers will send out clear signals to others not to toy with health of people. Food safety inspectors should periodically visit food manufacturing units and check for quality of items manufactured there, especially the hygiene and steps taken to ensure qualitative manufacturing of food items as mandated under law.

The officers concerned should draw up a monthly inspection time-table and adhere to it, the DC said. Special attention should be paid to quality of snacks and food items dispensed at snack shops that operate at places of tourist importance including beaches in the district. There are complaints of use of plastic spoons and other plastic items at such places. Local civic body officials and food safety officers should submit a report in this regard, she said.

Reports on use of formalin as preservative in transportation of fish have come up. Authorities have issued food safety permits to 68 vehicles to transport fish, Dr Vasudeva, district surveillance officer said. The district has 15 water bottling units and there are no illegal bottling units operating, he said. Kumarchandra, additional SP, Dr M G Rama, DHO, Dr Madhusudan Nayak, district surgeon and others were present.