

FDCA collects record Rs 4.19 crore fine

Mihir Ved, Ahmeda

By [Mihir Ved](#), Ahmedabad Mirror | Updated: Aug 8, 2019, 06:16 IST



FILE PHOTO : Gujarat had bagged second spot, after Goa, in State Food Safety Index (SFSI) in 2018-19



A-

A+

There is no escape for manufacturers adulterating food items or selling edibles of substandard quality in Gujarat. The Food and Drugs Control Administration (FDCA), which ensures the quality of foods and drugs in the State, has collected a whopping fine of Rs 4.19 crore during the year 2018-19 from defaulters.

A total of an unprecedented 572 cases were registered against violators for non-conforming with food standards

in the year 2018-19. The amount collected by the FDCA is the highest till date in a year, breaking its previous highest of Rs 2.59 crore in 2017-18, which it collected from 382 violators.

In response to an RTI filed by Mirror, the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) revealed that Gujarat ranks third in collection of penalty from offenders during the year 2018-19. It collected a fine of Rs 2.59 crore, third only to Uttar Pradesh (Rs 12.9 crore) and Delhi (2.68 crore). While a meagre amount of Rs 97500 was collected from seven violators in the year 2012-13, the fine increased to 4.19 crore in the year 2018-19, which was collected from 572 violators.

With 9,576 samples collected during the year 2017-18, Gujarat ranked third after Uttar Pradesh (19,063) and Punjab (11,057). The number of substandard food samples found in Gujarat (2%) is also below the national average (5%).

FDCA Commissioner Hemant Koshia, on the highest penalty collection, told Mirror, "FDCA is committed towards ensuring the safety of citizens. Public health is our priority, and by the combined efforts of the FDCA, state government and the FSSAI, we will make sure that safe and quality food reaches the people."

Dr Bhavin Solanki, in-charge Medical Officer of Health, AMC, told Mirror that substandard quality food items may affect the consumer depending upon the food item and the extent of deterioration. He said, "If anyone finds any substandard quality food item being sold around them, they can complain to the municipal corporation helpline 155303. People can also complain about harmful food items to the health department of AMC as well as their respective zonal offices."

During the current year, the FDCA has already collected Rs 1.26 crore by penalising 134 offenders in Gujarat. The FDCA Gujarat has further appointed 58 food safety officers in its team, said sources.

The penalties are levied by the FDCA keeping in view the size of enterprise and its outreach to the consumers. When a product, found to be substandard or misleading, carries the potential to reach a large number of consumers, the FDCA levies a heavy penalty keeping public safety at the core, added Koshia.

Number of prosecutions and penalty levied

Yr	Cases	Penalty
2011-12	92	-
2012-13	46	97500
2013-14	397	1.9 lakh
2014-15	501	56 lakh
2015-16	537	1.9 cr
2016-17	559	1.66 cr
2017-18	508	2.5 cr
2018-19	572	4.19 cr

Amount in Rs

Number of prosecutions and penalty levied

Guj bags second spot

Due to the vigil of the FDCA, Gujarat bagged the second spot in the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) for the year 2018-19, only second to Goa. The report was prepared by FSSAI to provide safe and wholesome food products to consumers. Gujarat scored 79% on the State Food Safety Index, next to Goa, which topped the list with 84%.

AMC conducts checks

Apart from the FDCA, AMC also conducts frequent checks to ensure that the quality of food is maintained, and consumer interest is preserved.

“ FDCA is committed towards ensuring the safety of citizens. FDCA, state government and the FSSAI will ensure quality food reaches people