

The Tribune

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Now, check for spurious products on the spot

Manav Mander, Oct 7, 2018

Food testing van reaches city | To move around for a month | Sample testing to begin from Monday around Civil Lines area



The food van will start testing samples from Monday. Tribune photo

The food testing van has finally arrived in the city and now, residents will be able to get their food samples checked on the spot. It will move around and start testing samples from Monday. Civil Surgeon Dr Parvinder Pal Singh Sidhu said the food testing van was moving around the country and now, it had reached Ludhiana.

“The van will be here for a month and city people will be able to get their food samples tested for Rs50 and the report will also be given on the spot,” said Dr Sidhu.

He said they have one technician and the other one has gone for training. The service would start from Monday. The area where the van would be visiting, would be announced a day in advance, he said.

Dr Andesh Kang, District Health Officer, said more and more people should reap the benefits out of this service. “On Monday, the van will be available around the Civil Lines. It will also help

us in further tracking the supply of adulterated food material. Residents can also lodge their complaints regarding adulterated food products on toll-free number 1800112100," she said.

The van is funded by the Centre and would be following the guidelines of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). It has already visited cities including Amritsar, Bathinda and Jalandhar.

It will detect fats and testing adulterants such as urea, sucrose, starch, adulteration in milk, detection of synthetic colours along with many other tests for checking adulteration in food items. The van is fully equipped with analytical instruments such as milk analyser, hot air oven, hot plate, multi parameter hand-held meter, digital refractometer, mixer-grinder and digital weighing scale.

Penalty under Food Safety Act

- Expiry of product: Up to Rs 2 lakh
- Misbranded product: Up to Rs 3 lakh
- Sub-standard product: Up to Rs 5 lakh
- Misleading packaging: Up to Rs 10 lakh
- Unsafe products: Imprisonment from 1 to 6 months and a fine according to the gravity of the offence

Lab on wheels equipped to conduct 40 tests

The van is equipped to conduct 40 different types of tests on food and the report would be available on the spot. "The reports of samples will be taken to take action against shopkeepers selling sub-standard food and the consumer himself can lodge a complaint with the Health Department in case the sample fails," said Civil Surgeon Dr Parvinder Pal Singh Sidhu.