

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1107
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th FEBRUARY, 2020**

REVISED NORMS FOR HONEY

1107. SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether FSSAI has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Ninth Amendment Regulations, 2018 which has revised the standards of Honey by omitting Specific marker for Rice Syrup, Trace marker for Rice Syrup and Foreign oligosaccharides implying that if any company is using the said items as adulteration in honey it need not mention that on label;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether pollen count is the important criteria for ascertaining purity of honey, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether FSSAI has reduced the required pollens count from 25000 to 5000 thereby disincentivising/harming the honey hunters and growers, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE**

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), vide direction dated 29th October, 2019, has omitted specific marker for Rice Syrup, Trace marker for Rice Syrup and foreign oligosaccharides. The existing standards of honey, however, still cover parameters like C4 Sugar, 13 Max, 13C Fru-Glu, 13C Protein-Honey to detect adulteration of C4 sugars like corn syrup, invert syrup, sugarcane syrup, maize syrup etc. to a large extent.

(c): Yes. Pollen Count is one of the criteria which reflects authenticity and floral identity of the honey.

(d): FSSAI has informed that revision in pollen count requirement has been made based on the inputs received from the Experts from Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and Central Bee Research and Training Institute (CBRTI) representing true picture of pollen count in Indian honey.