

FSSAI proposes imprisonment to check food adulteration

Food regulator, Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is reported to be mulling amendments to the Food Safety and Standards Law of 2006 to enforce and impose harsher action against those who indulge in food adulteration. Those adulterating food products could face life imprisonment and penalty of up to INR 10 lakh with the proposed amendment.

FSSAI has issued the draft amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, which was passed in 2006 but the regulations were notified only in 2011. The regulator has proposed total 100 amendments to the Act and has sought public comments by July 2.

Among key amendments, FSSAI has proposed to include a new section to crack down on food adulteration.

"Any person... adds an adulterant to food so as to render it injurious for human consumption with an inherent potential to cause his death or is likely to cause grievous hurt, irrespective of the fact whether it causes actual injury or not, shall be punishable for a term which shall not be less than 7 years but which may extend to imprisonment for life and also fine which shall not be less than INR 10 lakh," the FSSAI said.