

Preliminary submissions:

4. The present petition pertains to the issue of sale of junk food in the school premises and the deleterious effect of the same on the health of the children.

5. In this regard it may be submitted that the Union of India is aware and conscious of the concerns agitated in the petition.

6. Though it may be highlighted that the term "junk food" has not been defined under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the Rules made there under presently enforced and as it is understood that any food that has poor nutritional value is considered unhealthy and may be called a JUNK FOOD. It is further submitted that the following facts with regard to the "junk food" are also understood:

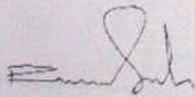
a. Junk food is understood as food that is high in fat, sodium and/ or sugar.

b. Junk food is easy to carry, purchase and consume. Generally, a junk food is given a very attractive appearance by adding food additives and colour to enhance flavour, texture appearance and increasing long self life.

c. Junk foods are empty calories. An empty calorie lacks in micronutrients such as vitamins, minerals, amino acids and fibre but higher in energy.

d. Such junk food is high in fats and sugar and is responsible for obesity, dental cavities, diabetes and heart disease.

7. It is further submitted that there are certain studies to indicate that there is a positive correlation between consumption of foods with "empty calories" and "chronic degenerative diseases" as well as hypertension, obesity, cardiovascular problems and glucose intolerance.

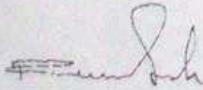


6. Thus the Union of India is actively engaged in dealing with the health risks that the consumption of junk food may pose to the general health of the population and more particularly the health of the children of the country. Thus the Union of India is taking the following steps in this regard to ensure that the threat posed by the consumption of "empty calorie" food may be effectively dealt with. In this regard the Union of India has taken and is in the process of taking the following steps:

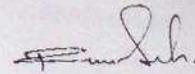
a. Efforts are being made by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to make people aware of the harmful effects of increased consumption of junk food. In this regard Union Health Minister has already written to:

- Health Ministers of All States/UTs to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of carbonated beverages and junk foods from school and college canteens.
- Chief Ministers of all States to consider issuing instructions to the Vice-Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and Agricultural Universities for withdrawal of junk foods and carbonated drinks from educational institutions canteens.
- Union Minister for Human Resource Development to advice education ministers of States/UTs to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated water from school and college canteens

b. Further efforts are also being made to promote healthy habits and to discourage the consumption of fast food. To generate awareness among community about nutrition related issues and promoting healthy lifestyle Directorate General of Health Services has developed IEC material i.e. posters and folders on micronutrient deficiency, diet related chronic disorders, promotion of healthy life styles for different age groups.



c. It is further submitted that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), a statutory body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is also undertaking a project for development of guidelines for making available quality and safe food in schools and has invited proposals from experienced agencies/ Organisations/ Institutions for development of guidelines for making available quality and safe food in schools. Thus, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is in the process of issuing guidelines for improvement of safety and quality food in school canteens after the completion of the project and approval of the guidelines by the concerned Scientific Panel, Committee and the Authority.

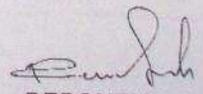


DEPONENT
डॉ धीर सिंह / Dr. Dhir Singh
सहायक महा निदेशक (डी.पी.ओ.)
Assistant Director of Government (D.P.O.)
भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक प्राधिकरण
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
एनडीए भवन, कोटला रोड, नई दिल्ली-110002
FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi-110002

VERIFICATION:

I, the deponent above named do hereby solemnly affirm and state that the contents of this affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge based on records and nothing material has been concealed there from.

Verified at New Delhi on this _____ day of July 2011.



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डॉ धीर सिंह / Dr. Dhir Singh
सहायक महा निदेशक (डी.पी.ओ.)
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