

Hindu Business Line

NHRC issues notice to FSSAI on packaged food labelling

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Wants labels to provide consumers with information to make healthier choices

The NHRC has expressed “profound concern” at the health risks posed by packaged foods with high salt and sugar content without proper warning on their labels

Recognising that packaged foods have adverse health effects, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has expressed “profound concern” and sought a response from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on the selection of the front-of-pack food labels which should provide consumers with information to make healthier choices.

The NHRC issued this directive on a complaint filed on September 14, 2021, by Shruti Nagvanshi and Shirin Shabana Khan on behalf of the Peoples’ Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) and Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Panchayat of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, the PVCHR said in a media release.

The Commission, as per the PVCHR, issued the first notice on October 11, 2021, to the Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, seeking a response to the complaint. On September 20, 2022, the FSSAI introduced the Front of Pack Labelling (FOPL) draft regulation and subsequently invited public comment, after the Commission issued a notice to the food regulator’s Chief Executive Officer (CEO) on February 9., the PVCHR informed.

Consumer’s right

Shruti Nagvanshi, co-complainant and Convenor of Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Panchayat, said they approached the NHRC to assert that consumers have the right to know what they are eating since packaged food products with high levels of sugar, salt, or fats are a primary cause of health problems.

“A clear warning on the front-of-pack (FOPL) is the only way to protect our children and people from catastrophic health consequences. While FSSAI has introduced a draft regulation and proposed a certain type of FOPL, it is not the best choice for the people. We need a clear warning and not a misleading star-based rating system,” she stated.

Lenin Raghuvanshi, Founder and Convenor of PVCHR, also said, “In the interest of public health, it would be appropriate for FSSAI to abandon the idea of a star rating. An alert or warning label is the need of the hour. For over two years now, members of the PIPAL network (People’s Initiative for Participatory Action on Food Labeling) have been advocating the protection of a child’s right to healthy food and a healthy life”.

NewClick Hindi

डिब्बाबंद खाद्य पदार्थों की शिकायतों पर NHRC ने की कार्रवाई

<https://hindi.newsclick.in/NHRC-took-action-on-complaints-of-canned-foods>

राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने अस्वास्थ्यकर पैकेज्ड खाद्य पदार्थों के संबंध में दाखिल की गई याचिका पर विचार कर भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक प्राधिकरण को आदेश जारी किया है।

लखनऊ: राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग (NHRC) ने उच्च नमक, चीनी और संतृप्त वसा वाले डिब्बाबंद खाद्य पदार्थों से होने वाले स्वास्थ्य नुकसान पर चिंता व्यक्त की है। कासी-न्यायिक निकाय ने इसे भारतीयों के जीवन के अधिकार और स्वास्थ्य के अधिकार का उल्लंघन करने वाला मामला करार देते हुए भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक प्राधिकरण (FSSAI) से उनके फ्रंट-ऑफ-पैक लेबल्स के चयन पर एक प्रतिक्रिया को बुलाया है जो जानकारी प्रदान करनी चाहिए ताकि उपभोक्ता आसानी से स्वस्थ विकल्प चुन सकें।

NHRC ने 14 सितंबर, 2021 को उत्तर प्रदेश के वाराणसी जिले की रहने वाली मानवाधिकार जननिगरानी समिति व सावित्री बाई फुले महिला पंचायत की सुश्री श्रुति नागवंशी और शिरीन शबाना खान द्वारा दायर एक शिकायत के जवाब में पर्याप्त कदम उठाए हैं। लखनऊ में एक संवाददाता सम्मेलन को संबोधित करते हुए, शिकायतकर्ता और सावित्री बाई फुले महिला पंचायत की संयोजिका सुश्री श्रुति नागवंशी ने कहा, "भारतीयों को मधुमेह, मोटापा, कैंसर और हृदय रोग जैसे एनसीडी के कारण समय से पहले होने वाली मौतों और रुग्णता में तेजी से वृद्धि का सामना करना पड़ रहा है।"

ये बीमारियाँ युवाओं और बच्चों को प्रभावित कर रही हैं। कभी-कभी 5 साल की उम्र में भी खतरनाक घटनाएं सामने आती हैं। इस संकट का एक प्राथमिक कारण पैकेज्ड खाद्य उत्पादों का सेवन है जिनमें उच्च स्तर की चीनी, नमक या वसा होती है। अनजाने में इन खाद्य पदार्थों का सेवन करने वाले लोगों को होने वाले नुकसान को सहन करने में असमर्थ, हमने NHRC में जाने और अपनी दलील देने का फैसला किया कि उपभोक्ताओं को यह जानने का अधिकार है कि उनके भोजन में क्या है। पैकेज के सामने स्पष्ट चेतावनी (FOPL) ही हमारे बच्चों और इस देश के लोगों को विनाशकारी स्वास्थ्य परिणामों से बचाने का एकमात्र तरीका है।

जबकि FSSAI ने एक मसौदा विनियमन पेश किया है और एक निश्चित प्रकार के FOPL का प्रस्ताव रखा है लेकिन यह वह नहीं है जो लोगों के लिए सबसे अच्छा है। "हमें स्पष्ट चेतावनी देनी चाहिए और स्टार आधारित रेटिंग प्रणाली से लोगों को गुमराह नहीं करना चाहिए।"

इसे एक दुर्लभ अवसर बताते हुए मानवाधिकार जननिगरानी डॉ लेनिन रघुवंशी ने कहा कि NHRC ने इस मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए इसकी सुनवाई फुल कमीशन में निर्णय लिया। उन्होंने आगे कहा, "सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य के हित में, FSSAI के लिए स्टार रेटिंग के विचार को त्यागना उचित होगा। अलर्ट या चेतावनी लेबल समय की मांग है। पिछले दो वर्षों से अधिक समय से, पीपल नेटवर्क के लोग कह रहे हैं कि हमें बच्चे के स्वस्थ भोजन और स्वास्थ्य जीवन के अधिकार की रक्षा करने की आवश्यकता है। यह इस आंदोलन के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण क्षण है और हमें उम्मीद है कि FSSAI इस पर ध्यान देगा।"

FSSAI की प्रस्तावित भारत पोषण रेटिंग (INR) पर टिप्पणी करते हुए, डॉ. युवराज सिंह ने कहा, "यह धारणा कि अस्वास्थ्यकर भोजन केवल फल या मेवे मिलाने से स्वस्थ बन सकता है, गलत है और इसमें वैज्ञानिक आधार का अभाव है। सितारों का निर्धारण एक जटिल स्कोरिंग प्रणाली पर आधारित है जो फलों या मेवों को शामिल करने जैसे सकारात्मक कारकों को महत्व देता है। यह 'स्टार रेटिंग' इन उत्पादों के कई हानिकारक प्रभावों को छुपा सकती है और जनता को एक भ्रामक संदेश दे सकती है।

FSSAI से इंडिया न्यूट्रिशन रेटिंग को FPOलेबल डिज़ाइन के रूप में चुनने पर रिपोर्ट सबमिट करने के लिए कहने वाले पूर्ण आयोग पर अपना विश्वास जताते हुए मानवाधिकार जननिगरानी समिति की कार्यक्रम निदेशक सुश्री शिरीन शबाना खान ने कहा, "भारत से, जिसमें एम्स, आईआईपीएस, और डॉ. चंद्रकांत पांडव जैसे कुछ प्रमुख पोषण विशेषज्ञों द्वारा किए गए अध्ययन सहित, पर्याप्त साक्षात्कार है कि चेतावनी लेबल सबसे अच्छा काम करते हैं। दुनिया भर के देश भी अपने लोगों की सुरक्षा के लिए चेतावनी लेबल का अनुसरण कर रहे हैं। हमें सही और वैज्ञानिक चीजों पर क्यों ध्यान नहीं देना चाहिए?"

सुश्री नागवंशी याद दिलाती हैं कि यात्रा आसान नहीं रही है। NHRC स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय और FSSAI को अनुस्मारक और नोटिस जारी करता रहा है जिसका कोई जवाब नहीं मिला। अब जो नोटिस जारी किया गया है उसे नज़रअंदाज़ करना मुश्किल होगा क्योंकि यह जनमानस की जरूरत है।

Packaged food: NHRC notice to FSSAI on front-of-pack labelling

Our Bureau
New Delhi

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The NHRC issued this directive on a complaint filed on September 14, 2021, by Shruti Nagvanshi and Shirin Shabana Khan on behalf of the Peoples’ Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) and Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Panchayat of Varanasi, the PVCHR said in a media release.

The Commission, according to PVCHR, issued the first notice on October 11, 2021, to the Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, seeking a response to the complaint. On September 20, 2022, the FSSAI came out with the Front-of-Pack Labelling (FOPL) draft regulation and subsequently invited public comments after the Commission issued a notice to the food regulator’s Chief Executive Officer on February 9.

CONSUMER’S RIGHT

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“A clear warning on the front-of-pack (FOPL) is the only way to protect our children and people from catastrophic health consequences. While the FSSAI has come up with a draft regulation and proposed a certain type of FOPL, it is not the best choice for the people. We need a clear warning and not a misleading star-based rating system,” she stated.

Lenin Raghuvanshi, Founder and Convenor of PVCHR, said, “In the interest of public health, it would be appropriate for the FSSAI to abandon the idea of a star rating. An alert or warning label is the need of the hour. For over two years now, members of the PIPAL network (People’s Initiative for Participatory Action on Food Labelling) have been advocating the protection of a child’s right to healthy food and a healthy life”.

MSN

NHRC notice to FSSAI regarding health concern caused by packaged food

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/health/health-news/nhrc-notice-to-fssai-regarding-health-concern-caused-by-packaged-food/ar-AA1kuQ3l>

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Friday noted with concern the health harm caused by packaged food high in salt, sugar and saturated fats.

Terming it a matter “infringing on the Right to Life and Right to Health” of the people, it summoned a response from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on its choice of front-of-pack labels displaying information that should help consumers easily make healthier choices.

The summons comes in response to a complaint filed on September 14, 2021 by Shruti Nagvanshi and Shirin Shabana Khan on the behalf of Peoples’ Vigilance Committee on Human Rights (PVCHR) and Savitri Bai Phule Mahila Panchayat of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing a press conference here, Nagvanshi said, “Indians are facing a sharp rise in premature deaths and morbidity due to NCDs (non communicable diseases) such as diabetes, obesity, cancer and cardiovascular disease. These diseases are impacting the youth and children, sometimes with alarming occurrences even as early as 5 years of age. One of the primary causes of this crisis is consumption of packaged food products which contain high levels of sugar, salt, or fats.

“... Consumers have the right to know what is in their food. A clear warning on the front-of-pack (FOPL) is the only way to save our children and people of this country from a catastrophic health consequence. While FSSAI has introduced a draft regulation and proposed a certain type of FOPL, it is not what is best for the people. We must have clear warning and not mislead people with a star based rating system,” she said.

Commenting on FSSAI’s proposed India Nutrition Rating (INR), Dr Yuvraj Singh, said, “The notion that unhealthy food can become healthy simply by adding fruits or nuts is erroneous and lacks a scientific basis. The assignment of stars is based on a complex scoring system that values positive factors such as the inclusion of fruit or nuts. This ‘star rating’ may mask many of the detrimental effects of these products and convey a misleading message to the public.”

Statesman

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