Prevention of Food Adulteration -
A Case Study

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The distribution of impure or adulterated food for consumption is an act perilous to human life. It is a dangerous and widespread malaise afflicting the Indian society and has often led to large human tragedies, sudden or slow, insidious or open. There are, unfortunately, large segments of population in our country who live far beneath the ordinary subsistence level. They are compelled to buy and use as food, articles which are adulterated and even unfit for human consumption. Others, who can afford to buy their daily bread, find it difficult to withstand the daily rough and tumble of the market place. The crafty traders, taking undue advantage of the situation, fob off adulterated edibles to such deceit prone buyers. These unscrupulous traders seek to draw dividends from the damage to the health of people caused by trade in adulteration. Strict adherence to high standards of ethical behaviour, which is necessary for smooth and honest functioning of a system, is lacking in the new socio-political and economic order.¹

In the earlier periods of the development of human society man survived on a diet consisting of a relatively few species of plants and animals. However, the advent of industrial era brought in a change in his eating habits. Since the beginning of twentieth century, the unprecedented rate of population growth, the development of new technology and a variety of

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¹ Santhanam Committee Report, p. 11.
economic factors have changed traditional concepts of food supply and devised new ways in which these materials can be marketed. This metamorphosis, necessitated the exercise of certain control over the speculative victuallers in the interests of public health and safety.

All civilised countries have enacted laws regulating the purity and labelling of food. In India, the first major step in the direction of checking the menace of food adulteration was taken in 1860 when the Indian Penal Code was enacted. Since the criminal liability under the code was limited, it did not prove effective to control the increasing malady of food adulteration. To meet with this situation, different states in British India enacted separate legislation. These legislations lacked uniformity having been passed at different times without mutual consultation between states. The need for a central legislation for the whole country had been felt since 1937 when a committee appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Health recommended this. Hence a Central legislation called the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 was enacted by the Parliament in the fifth year of the Republic of India.

The position in the State of Jammu and Kashmir was not materially different from the rest of India. The first legislation governing the quality of food, the Prevention of Adulteration of Food Act, Samvat 1975, was enacted in 1918. The Jammu and Kashmir Municipal Act, Samvat 2008, enacted in 1951, also contained provisions which dealt with the adulteration of food stuffs and prescribed measures to be taken by Municipal

3. Act No. 14 of 1860; Sections 272 and 273 deal with adulteration of food or drink intended for sale and sale of noxious food or drink respectively.
4. E.g., Assam Pure Food Act 1932; Bombay Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1935; Punjab Pure Food Act 1929 etc.
6. Sanctioned by His Highness the Maharaja Sahib Bahadur vide Chief Minister’s letter No. 198/P-51-13 dt. 5.5.1918.
7. Act No. VIII of Samvat 2008; Chapter XV, Sections 155-166.
Authorities in the interest of public health and welfare. The Act of Samvat 1975 was repealed by a more elaborate and comprehensive legislation, the Jammu and Kashmir Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1958. All these legislative measures could not deter unscrupulous elements from resorting to nefarious practice of food adulteration. Consequently, the Central Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 was extended to the State of Jammu and Kashmir in the year 1971.

This paper is an attempt to study the incidence of food adulteration in the town of Kishtwar. Enquiries have been made as to how far the officials connected with the implementation of the Act of 1954 have been able to enforce the provisions of the Act. The other areas of study include to assess the following: (i) the awareness of people of the prevalence of food adulteration and existence of anti-food adulteration law; (ii) factors which compel traders to indulge in food adulteration and those which compel consumers to go for adulterated food articles; (iii) basis of initiation of investigation against offenders; (iv) reasons for the low rate of prosecutions and convictions under the Act; (v) causes for the delay, if any, in the disposal of cases; time taken to send the seized sample for analysis; (vi) receive the analysis report and dispose of a case under the Act. The integrity and efficacy of officials, role of "customary payments" in the implementation of law and the effect of investigations and prosecutions under the Act on delinquent traders, also form the subject of enquiry.

Keeping in view the objectives stated above, the following hypothesis have been formulated, which delimit the field of inquiry to the area of investigation presumed therein:

1. Officials connected with the implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 are adequately equipped to deal with food adulteration.

2. The provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 are adequate to eradicate the menace of food adulteration.

3. The trade in food adulteration is a manifestation of the corruption syndrome that swamps our society.

The spatial concern of the present study, if extended to the entire State of Jammu and Kashmir, comprising of fourteen districts, would have formed a comprehensive study. But this was not possible due to the paucity of time and resources. Hence, the area falling within the territorial limits of Kishtwar Town Area Committee was chosen as the locality for study. For the purposes of survey a sample of 150 respondents was taken which included three different categories of respondents viz. consumers, traders and officials connected with the implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954. 100 consumers were selected from 2 entirely different sections of society i.e. slum dwellers (Watal Basti) and residence of posh locality (Shahidi Mohalla) in the town of Kishtwar. Each category comprising of 50 respondents were selected on the basis of simple random sampling technique. The second category of respondents who deal in the manufacture, wholesale distribution and retail sale of food articles. Since, no record official or non-official, showing the number of traders dealing in food articles in the city of Kishtwar was available the investigator adopted purposive sampling techniques for the selection of 30 respondents belonging to this category. The third category of respondents comprised of officials connected with the implementation of Act of 1954, and included the officials

10. This area was chosen for the following reasons:
Firstly, the investigator belongs to this area and has the working knowledge of the matters relating to food adulteration in the said area. Secondly, problems of access to the house-holds, offices, and places of work, in order to analyse the reasons for the incidence of food adulteration and the attitudes of the residents of the area towards the effectiveness of anti-food adulteration law, would not have been as formidable as in other areas in which the investigator has not many contacts.
of Town Area Committee of Kishtwar, Court of Sub-Judge, Kishtwar and Public Analyst's Office situated at Jammu. The 20 respondents connected with the implementation of the Act were selected on the basis of disproportionate stratified simple random sampling technique.  

**Awareness of Food Adulteration and Law**

From the data collected during the field survey on the different aspects of the impact study the following generalisations are made. Though data were collected in all aspects, only a few were presented in the statistical form of tables here for paucity of space.

It is explicit from the data that all respondents i.e., 100 per cent consumers belonging to slum area, 100 per cent belonging to posh area and 100 per cent traders are aware of the prevalence of the social evil of food adulteration. The data also indicates that all the three categories of respondents mentioned above are aware of the facts that dealing in adulteration of food articles constitutes an offence under law. The data clearly indicates that all officials (100 per cent) are aware of existence of anti-food adulteration law in state of Jammu and Kashmir. An overwhelming majority of respondents i.e., 95 per cent slum dwellers, 87 per cent officials, 87 per cent posh area residents, 55 per cent traders and 100 per cent officials stated that sale, keeping for sale, distribution or manufacturing of spurious food articles constitutes an offence under law. 5 per cent

11. The data for this study have been collected, through both primary and secondary sources. The primary source includes interview schedules and observational study. Two different sets of interview schedules which had been pre-tested on a small sample and re-structured in the light of responses of the respondents, were administered to different categories of respondents. The interviews were preferred to questionnaire for the following reasons: 1. To avoid non-response rate which is bound to be fairly high in studies of this kind and 2. A substantial number of respondents who were illiterate, would not be able to answer the questions, if these were in English, Hindi or Urdu. The observational study also formed an important asset in the interpretation and the analysis of field data collected during the survey.
slum dwellers, 68 per cent posh area residents and 35 per cent traders stated that it is manufacturer of adulterated food articles who is the real offender. However, 3 per cent traders stated that it is only the retailer who is responsible for the kind of food articles sold by him.

Causes and Consequences

The data clearly indicates that 100 per cent slum dwellers, 88 per cent posh area residents, 75 per cent traders and 73.66 per cent officials stated that it is the desire to earn more profit that compels traders to indulge in the selling or buying of adulterated food articles, 8 per cent residents of posh area, 15 per cent traders and 26.34 per cent officials stated that they do so because they want to become rich overnight and gain position of respect and status in society, the remaining 4 per cent residents of posh area and 10 per cent traders indicated that traders indulge in the adulteration of food articles to meet scarcity in the market. About the effects of adulterated food articles on health 100 per cent slum dwellers, 100 per cent posh area residents, 95 per cent traders and 100 per cent officials expressed the view that consumption of adulterated food articles is detrimental to one's health and leads to the deterioration of vital organs in the body. It reduces drastically the life span of every individual consumer. Only 5 per cent traders stated that the consumption of such food articles does not affect the health of consumers in any serious manner. When asked about the factors that compel consumer to go for adulterated food articles, in the face of serious health hazards (Table A) 50 per cent residents of posh area, 37 per cent officials, 30 per cent traders and 9 per cent slum dwellers responded that there is scarcity of genuine food articles in the market. 63 per cent officials, 35 per cent traders, 20 per cent slum dwellers, and 3 per cent residents of posh area stated that consumers are not aware of the hazards posed by adulterated food articles on their health, 25 per cent slum dwellers, 10 per cent traders and 6 per cent posh area residents stated that pure food articles are very costly, 46 per cent slum dwellers, 14 per cent traders and 3 per cent posh area residents
### Table A

**Factors that Compel Consumers to Buy Adulterated Food Articles**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Slum Area (Watal Basti)</th>
<th>Posh Area (Shahidi Mohalla)</th>
<th>Traders</th>
<th>Officials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarcity of pure food</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pure foods are costly</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignorance of the effects of adulterated food</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer accustomed to adulterated food</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit and food adulteration</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
stated that consumers are least concerned of the quality so long as they get continuous supply of food articles on credit. While 23 per cent residents of posh area and 11 per cent traders stated that because of non-availability of genuine food articles, consumers, have become accustomed to the use of adulterated ones. On close scrutiny the data reveal that factors which compel consumers to go for adulterated food articles depend upon the socio-economic disposition of an individual. The consumers belonging to lower socio-economic strata of our society purchase cheap food articles, mostly on credit, which are usually adulterated where as those belonging to higher socio-economic groups find it difficult to get genuine food stuff despite their best efforts.

Initiation of Proceedings

About the mode of initiation of proceedings against offenders (Table B) 75 per cent officials stated that the food inspector lifts the sample suo motu. He visits the establishments on his own and purchases the samples like an ordinary customer. 7.35 per cent stated that the sample is lifted on the directions given by Municipality, and the remaining 17.65 per cent stated that Food Inspectors may lift sample suo motu, or on the basis of a complaint lodged by the affected individual or consumer organisation, or on the directions given by the Municipality or on the basis of a police report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suo motu</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>75.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint by affected individual</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complaint by consumer organisation</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direction by Municipality</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police report</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All the above</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assistance to Food Inspectors

The data lucidly explains that 74.35 per cent respondents indicated that the Food Inspector is not provided assistance while lifting a sample or conducting a raid on the establishment selling, storing, or manufacturing adulterated food articles. The remaining 25.65 per cent stated that the Food Inspectors may ask for such assistance if necessary. Out of 25.65 per cent respondents who stated that the Food Inspector may ask for assistance 73 per cent replied that they may ask for police escort, and 27 per cent replied that they may require the Municipality task force to accompany him.

Time Factors:

Regarding the time taken by Public Analyst to send the report of analysis to the Health Officer, Municipality, 56 per cent and 5.65 per cent stated 5 to 8 days.

Regarding the time taken by public Analyst to send the report of Analysis to the Health Officer, Municipality, 56 per cent respondents stated 31 to 40 days, 38.65 per cent stated 21 to 30 days and remaining per cent stated 41 to 50 days.

About the time taken by magistrate’s court to dispose of a case under the Act of 1954, 45.65 per cent stated 5 to 6 years, 24.35 per cent stated 6 years and above, 22 per cent stated 3 to 4 years and remaining 8 per cent stated 1 to 2 years. It is, therefore, clear from the data that court generally takes long time to decide a case under the Act, the average in the instant case being 5.63 years. It is interesting to note that all respondents connected with the implementation of the Act expressed the view that disposal of cases is delayed because the court follows the technicalities and procedural law provided in the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Evidence Act.

Poor Rate of Initiation of Prosecutions

About the reasons for the poor rate of initiation of prosecution of offenders under the Act (Table C) 48 per cent
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Consumer</th>
<th></th>
<th>Trader</th>
<th></th>
<th>Official</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Slum Area (Watal Basti)</td>
<td>Posh Area (Shahidi Mohalla)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignorance of remedies provided by law</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No consumer organisation</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food adulteration in food localities</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factum of adulteration cannot be known</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pick and choose method adopted</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
slum dwellers, 33 per cent posh area residents, 15 per cent traders and 10.33 per cent officials stated that there is no awareness among consumers of the criminal remedies provided by law. 17 per cent slum dwellers, 31 per cent posh area residents, 35 per cent traders and 18 per cent officials stated that the affected individual neither have the knowledge nor know how of detecting adulteration of food stuffs. 25 per cent slum dwellers, 25 per cent posh area residents and 15 per cent traders responded that there are no consumers organisations to take up the cases of aggrieved individual. 51.67 per cent officials, 15 per cent traders and 2 per cent resident of posh area stated that there seems to be collusion between the inspecting staff and the offenders because the Food Inspector adopt pick and choose method while lifting samples of adulterated food articles. The remaining 10 per cent slum dwellers, 9 per cent posh area residents and 20 per cent traders stated that the incidence of food adulteration is maximum in localities inhabited by downtrodden, who due to severe economic constraints prefer cheap food articles to genuine ones.

Reasons for Poor Rate of Convictions

The data collected in this regard reveals that an overwhelming majority of respondents i.e.; 100 per cent slum dwellers, 75 per cent posh area residents, 85 per cent traders and 34.67 per cent officials stated that the offenders generally have money and political contact sufficient to scuttle the prosecution; 65.33 per cent officials and 20 per cent residents of posh area indicated that cases fail on technical grounds; the remaining 15 per cent traders and 5 per cent residents of posh area stated that the cases are not pursued by affected individual due to extreme poverty and backwardness.

Integrity of Officials

It is explicit from the data that 85 per cent slum dwellers, 76 per cent posh area residents, 90 per cent traders and 66.67 per cent officials expressed the view that the officials connected with the implementation of the Act are not impartial in initiating prosecution. They are generally swayed by con-
considerations other than those of merit of case; 17 per cent residents of posh area, 10 per cent traders and 31.11 per cent officials did not agree to this view; and the remaining 16 per cent slum dwellers, 7 per cent of posh area residents and 2.22 per cent official did not have any opinion about the integrity of officials.

Customary Payments

The data lucidly illustrates that 100 per cent slum dwellers 68 per cent residents of posh area, 100 per cent traders, 76.67 per cent officials stated that the incidence of customary payments, impedes an effective implementation of the Act. It is notorious that there are large number of Food Inspectors who collect "customary payments", every month, from retailers falling under their area and, in return, provide a fool proof safety against lifting samples from their establishments. Only 22 per cent posh area residents and 15.67 per cent officials did not agree to this view. The remaining 10 per cent posh area residents and 7.66 per cent officials did not express any opinion about the effect of customary payments on the incidence of food adulteration.

Implementation of the Act

The data collected in this regard indicates that 48 per cent slum dwellers, 59 per cent residents of posh area and 74 per cent traders responded that anti-food adulteration law does not operate on manufacturers, producers and distributors. It is an instrument to harass the retail dealers of food articles. 96.67 per cent of officials, 22 per cent traders, 40 per cent posh area residents and 36 per cent slum area dwellers did not agree to this statement; and remaining 16 per cent slum dwellers, 10 per cent posh area residents, 4 per cent traders and 3.33 per cent officials did not express any opinion about the operation of the Act.

Efficiency of Officials

It is evident from data that 60 per cent slum dwellers, 66 per cent of posh area residents, 74 per cent traders, 76.77 per
cent officials did not agree to the statement that the officials connected with the implementation of the Act are highly motivated and trained to deal with cases of food adulteration with speed and efficiency; only 23.33 per cent officials responded to the statement; the remaining 40 per cent slum area residents, 16 per cent posh area residents and 8 per cent traders did not express any opinion.

**Effect of Prosecution under the Act on Traders**

The data lucidly indicate that an overwhelming majority of respondents; 100 per cent slum dwellers, 60 per cent posh area residents, 98 percentage traders and 88.33 per cent officials expressed serious concern about the manner in which the provisions of the Act are invoked against the offenders and stated that the investigation and prosecution of such cases do not have a deterrent effect on the people associated with production, distribution and sale of such articles. But 34 per cent posh area residents, 2 per cent traders, and 16.67 per cent officials stated that investigation and prosecution of such cases do have some deterrent effect on traders.12 The remaining 6 per cent residents of posh area did not express any opinion about this.

**Samples Lifted**

Relevant records from the Statistical section of the Office of Health Officer were verified to know the number of samples lifted, of adulterated food articles, by the municipal authorities. The data clearly indicated that 231 samples were lifted during 1984-85 which included 230 retailers and one manufacturer. During 1985-86 samples of 223 were lifted which comprised of 220 retailers and 3 manufacturers. The number was 202 during 1986-87 which includes 200 retailers and 2 manufacturers of food articles.

**Samples Analysed**

Records from the office of the public analyst, Jammu were verified to know the number of samples received by him

12. The data reveal that a majority of respondents i.e. 75.63 per cent are not in favour of any amendment to the Act whereas only 24.37 per cent favour some minor amendments to the existing law.
and found to be adulterated on analysis. The data reveals that during 1982-83, 75 samples of food articles were received by public analyst from Town Area Committee, Kishtwar and on analysis 16 were found to be adulterated. During 1983-84, 85 samples were received and 17 were certified as adulterated. This was 80 during 1984-85 and 18 were adulterated. During 1985-86 this was 82 in which 14 were adulterated and during 1986-87 out of 72 samples 9 were found to be adulterated.

To know the disposal of cases by the Chairman Town Area Committee, Kishtwar for the year 1982 to 1986 records were verified from the court of sub-judge, Kishtwar. The data thus collected reveals that 25 cases were at various stages of trial in the beginning of 1982-83, 9 new cases were registered 3 were disposed of in the form of convictions and 31 remained pending at the end of the year. Whereas in 1986-87, 65 cases were at the various stages of trial in the beginning of the year, 4 fresh cases were registered only one case was disposed off in the form of conviction and 68 remained pending at the end of the year.

Conclusions and Suggestions

It is evident from the study that people are aware of the incidence of food adulteration and know that dealing in adulterated food articles constitutes an offence under law. It is the desire to earn more profit that compels traders to indulge in the adulteration of food articles. These unscrupulous traders seek to draw dividends from damage caused to the health of people. Every individual consumer is aware of the damage caused by the consumption of adulterated food articles to one's health and consequent deterioration of vital organs in the body. There are many factors which compel the consumers to go for adulterated food articles even in the face of such hazards and those vary with the socio-economic position of an individual. The consumers belonging to low socio-economic strata prefer to buy cheap food articles, mostly on credit, which are found to be adulterated because of their low cost, whereas those belonging to higher socio-economic groups find it difficult to get genuine food articles despite their best efforts.
The investigation against offenders, under the Act, is initiated by the Food Inspector who lifts the sample of food article *suo moto*. But, it was found during the survey that the number of samples lifted by Food Inspector seldom reaches the target. There is only one inspector posted in the town of Kishtwar who alone is quite insufficient while taking into consideration the vast area, population, and number of shops and establishments dealing in the manufacture, distribution and retail sale of food articles.

The public analyst normally sends the report of the analysis of sample within the stipulated period of forty five days, but there is a great variation between the number of samples sent for analysis and those found to be adulterated by the analyst. Extraneous considerations and vested interests can play a vital role in shaping the outcome of cases at this stage of investigation. The court takes considerable time to dispose of cases. The main reason for such delay is the adherence to the procedural laws and technicalities provided under the Code of Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act. It is very significant to mention here that the Act contains a provision for summary trial of offenders under the Act, but such procedure is seldom adopted by the court.

The main reason for poor rate of initiation of prosecutions against the offenders is the pick and choose method adopted by Food Inspector, on the one hand, and the ignorance of consumers of the remedies provided by law, on the other. There is collusion between the inspecting staff and offenders which makes the detection and prosecution of real offenders extremely difficult. The officials connected with the implementation of the Act are not impartial in initiating prosecutions. They are generally swayed by considerations other than those of merit of the case.

It is notorious that inspecting staff especially Food Inspector collect customary payments from traders in exchange of full proof safety against lifting of samples from their establishments. The delinquent traders, dealing in adulterated food articles have
money and political contacts sufficient to scuttle the prosecution. This part of data proves the hypothesis that trade in food adulteration is a manifestation of the corruption syndrome that swamps our society.

The educational background of Food Inspectors and other members of inspecting staff is not adequate. They are not so necessarily trained as to deal with the cases of food adulteration with speed and efficacy. Moreover, they are not kept aware of the latest developments in the field. The Court of Sub-Judge, Kishtwar besides exercising the usual civil and criminal jurisdiction has been conferred the powers under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954. The workload seriously affects the earlier disposal of cases under the Act. Therefore, the findings of this part of the survey disprove the hypothesis that officials connected with the implementation of Act are adequately equipped to deal with the problem of food adulteration.

It is very significant to note from the study the deep concern shown by the consumers regarding its improper manner of implementation. The investigation and prosecution of such cases do not have deterrent effects on the people associated with the production, distribution and sale of adulterated food articles. The need of the hour is an impartial and effective implementation of the Act wherein prosecutions against offenders initiated strictly according to the merit of the case. The findings, thus, prove the hypothesis that the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 are adequate to eradicate the menace of food adulteration.

On the basis of the findings of the survey it is proposed to make following suggestions for an effective implementation of the Act.

The most effective way to weed out food adulteration is to educate people about its harmful effects and mobilise public opinion against it. There should be close monitoring of all anti-food adulteration measures. Honest traders should be rewarded and honoured in public and wide publicity given for
punishments awarded to guilty persons. An autonomous and specialised agency should be created to deal exclusively with the offences of food adulteration. It should have a separate court, established to deal with the cases under the Act. All food products should be registered prior to sale. It should usually be necessary to obtain a certificate from the health official in the area of its origin or manufacture in order to complete this registration. The application for registration must be accompanied by a sample for analysis. All food articles, irrespective of their nature and quality, should be sold in sealed packets declaring their contents and weight. It should be ensured that every article purchased by a food manufacturer for use in the manufacture of a finished product is registered and controlled.