

75 educational institutes in a soup over FSSAI norms

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Some violations

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Ajeet Kumar
Lal Mohan

THE Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has now turned its attention to the sanitation and hygienic standards of the food being prepared at educational institutions. Cracking its whip on the violations, it has issued notices to as many as 75 institutions in Coimbatore in the past week. Violators have been asked to rectify the issues in 14 days.

It was during a recent special drive that the food safety officials found the hostels, mess, and canteens in schools and colleges were not following the rules. Some of the complaints raised by the officials during the drive were poor sanitation, poor hygiene, lack of personal hygiene and not displaying the food safety license to the public. Out of the 75 institutions that were issued notices, about 46 were colleges and the remaining were schools.

Compared to government institutions, the number of private educational institutions violating the food safety regulations was higher.

Designated food safety officer K Tamil Selvan said, "During the drive, we found many institutions failing to comply with the rules. There were some whose licence had expired but they were still operating without a renewal. The violators were issued notices to rectify the issues."

Around 61 educational institutions and 14 institutions were issued notices under section 55 (the penalty for failure to comply with the directions of Food Safety Officer) and section 63 (punishment for carrying out a business without a licence), respectively, of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The department is planning to intensify the drive in the upcoming days.

Association of Self Financing Arts, Science and Management Colleges of Tamil Nadu President Ajeet Kumar Lal Mohan said that they have informed all the colleges to procure an FSSAI certificate. "The canteens at all colleges were asked to follow basic procedures according to the food safety guidelines. The students could make use of the feedback mechanism in case of any suggestions or complaints."