



Home (/ml) » Directorate (/ml/taxonomy/term/7) »

Strict action if health card is not collected within four weeks: Minister Veena George

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STRICT ACTION IF HEALTH CARD IS NOT COLLECTED WITHIN FOUR WEEKS: MINISTER VEENA GEORGE

*7,584 tests were conducted in the last one and a half months

Health Minister Veena George said that the Food Safety Department will take strict action if those working in food establishments in the state do not get their health card within four weeks. Health card is mandatory for those working in food establishments in the state. In a special drive conducted by the Food Safety Department, it was found that some employees do not have health cards and some have not renewed them. Newly employed people are given a grace period to get health card and those who have expired are given time to renew. Typhoid vaccine was made available at very low cost through Karunya Pharmacies. The minister also requested that all the food establishments like hotels , restaurants etc. should ensure health card for the employees.

Food safety inspections are going on vigorously in the state. A total of 7,584 tests were conducted last June and this month so far. 206 establishments have been suspended. 28,42,250 was levied as penalty. 1065 statutory samples and 3798 surveillance samples were collected. Rectification notices were issued to 741 firms and compounding notices to 720 firms. Prosecution proceedings were taken against 54 institutions and adjudication proceedings against 90 institutions.

Apart from regular inspections by the Food Safety Department, special drives were also organized. Shawarma Special Squad conducted 512 inspections. Out of which 52 institutions have been suspended. 1993 inspections were conducted as part of Operation Monsoon. 90 establishments have been suspended. As part of Operation Life, 2645 inspections were conducted and 107 establishments were suspended. 583 inspections were conducted during the special drive to ensure the safety of the fish. Action was taken by destroying 498 kg of spoiled fish.

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