

Case: 3S And Our Health Society vs. Union of India

Date: April 9, 2025

Background:

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed by 3S And Our Health Society highlighting the rising burden of non-communicable diseases in India caused by unhealthy food consumption. The petitioners urged the Court to mandate clear "Front-of-Pack Warning Labels" (FOPL) on packaged foods, indicating sugar, salt, and saturated fat levels.

Key Issues:

Lack of transparent nutritional information on packaged foods.

Need for regulatory reform in food labeling under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Supreme Court Directives:

Directed the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) expert committee to finalize recommendations on FOPL within three months.

Ordered that the recommendations be reviewed and the necessary amendments to the Food Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020, be implemented promptly.

Significance:

Aims to empower consumers with clear, accessible nutritional information.

Supports public health by helping reduce consumption of unhealthy packaged foods.

Aligns Indian food labeling with global best practices.

Excerpt from Judgment:

“During the hearing, Justice J.B. Pardiwala remarked on the lack of clear nutritional disclosure on popular packaged food brands and emphasized the importance of empowering consumers with accurate, visible information. The Court took note of the FSSAI’s proposed amendments, which require front-of-pack display of total sugar, salt, and saturated fat content along with their percentage contribution to the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA).”