

600 litres of used oil collected from Meenakshi temple

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Madurai: Food safety department officials collected 600 litres of used cooking oil from the Meenakshi Amman temple in Madurai for the first time under the repurpose used cooking oil (RUCO) programme.

The oil was used for preparing prasadam in the temple kitchen. The same oil would not be used twice as hygiene is given importance while preparing the prasadam. The oil collected on Monday was collected over the last 15 days, sources in the temple said.

Dr V Jayaramapandian, designated food safety officer for Madurai district and joint commissioner for Meenakshi temple K Chelladurai were present when the oil was collected on Monday.

Jayaramapandian said that 92,000 litres of used oil from hotels, bakeries and snacks units has been collected so far in Madurai district. So far, 75,000 litres of biodiesel has been manufactured using that oil.

A fixed amount is being paid for every litre of used oil collected from the food business operators. Earlier, the used oil was dumped in drainages and waterbodies, an official said.

Food safety department officials in Madurai initiated RUCO, a flagship programme of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), in order to get the used oil out of the system and convert it into biodiesel.