

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2831
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH MARCH, 2018**

FSSAI'S NORMS FOR IMPORTED FOOD ITEMS

2831. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has proposed that all imported food items should have at least three months to go for expiry, or a minimum 60% of their shelf life;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the FSSAI has proposed that the customs officer should not approve the import of food items that do not meet the condition; and

(c) whether the FSSAI will profile the importer, customs house agent, manufacturer of the imported product, country of origin, source of the consignment, port of entry, and history of compliance?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): Yes. As per the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)'s directions issued on 13.12.2017, Customs shall not clear any article of food unless it has a valid shelf life of not less than 60% or three months before expiry, whichever is less at the time of import.

(c): Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations provide for Risk based food import clearance. As per regulation 11 (2) of the said Regulations, FSSAI shall profile the importer, Custom House Agent, manufacturer of the imported products, imported product, country of origin, source country of the consignment, port of entry, compliance history, and any other parameters as it deemed fit for profiling the risk associated with the commodity.

FSSAI has started implementing Risk Management System (RMS) through Customs Single Window System based upon some of the above said profile i.e. Importer, country of origin, past compliance history, etc.