

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4108  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL, 2018**

**BENCHMARK TO IMPROVE HYGIENE, SAFETY  
AND REGULATION FOR MARKETING OF FISH**

**4108. SHRI K.K. RAGESH:**

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

- (a) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has any benchmarks to improve the hygiene, safety and regulation in processing as well as marketing of fish;
- (b) if so, whether any reports are available about the status of implementation of such benchmarks; and
- (c) whether any concrete steps are being taken to ensure implementation of the benchmarks?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Schedule 4 (Part II) of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011 notified by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India specifies the Sanitary and Hygienic requirements to be followed by all Food Businesses including those businesses which are involved in processing and marketing of fish.

Standards for Fish and Fisheries products are specified in Regulation 2.6 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additive) Regulations, 2011. Microbiological requirements are specified in Appendix B of these Regulations. Limits for metal contaminants, residues of insecticides, antibiotics and other pharmacologically active substances and limits of biotoxins and histamine in Fish and Fishery Products are specified in Regulations 2.1, 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 respectively of Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues Regulations, 2011.

The enforcement of provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder primarily rests with the State/UT Governments. To check compliance of the standards and safety parameters of food products laid down under these provisions, regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products is being done by the respective States/ UTs. Where the food samples are found to be non-conforming to the prescribed standards or are not as per prescribed benchmarks of hygienic requirements of food products including fish, recourse are taken to penal provisions under FSS Act, 2006. FSSAI also raises the issue of effective implementation of provisions of FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder with the State /UT Governments regularly.

States/UTs share the information about the number of samples of food products taken, analysed, found non-conforming and penal action taken. However, specific information in respect of fishing sector is not made available by the State Governments.