

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.217
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 21ST MARCH, 2023**

FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES

217 DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that a number of food testing laboratories are ill equipped, insufficient and under staffed, thereby hampering food testing and diluting the deterrence against rampant practice of food adulteration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of food testing laboratories set up, State/UT-wise including Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the number of existing testing laboratories that meet the international standards; and
- (e) whether Government has taken steps to upgrade these laboratories and also provide adequate staff, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA)**

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 217* FOR 21ST MARCH, 2023**

(a) to (d): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that it has a network of 253 food testing labs notified under Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, which includes primary food testing labs and referral labs. These labs are National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited as per ISO/IEC 17025, which is the international reference for testing and calibration laboratories wanting to demonstrate their capacity to deliver reliable results. These labs are well equipped and well managed for the scopes for which the labs have received NABL accreditation. State-wise number of Food Testing Laboratories in the Country including Tamil Nadu is attached at **Annexure**.

(e): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is implementing a Central Sector Scheme named “*Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country including provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs* (SOFTeL) under which State Food Testing Laboratories (SFTLs) are provided funds for setting up lab with basic lab equipment, installation of high end equipment and establishing microbiology lab. FSSAI has also provided grants to States for National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation, Certified Reference Materials, Consumables and for hiring contractual manpower. To extend reach of basic testing facilities even in remote areas, FSSAI has provided mobile food testing labs called Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs). FSSAI has released total funds of Rs 404.82 crore under SoFTeL for SFTLs (including FSWs) to the States/UTs.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has informed it is implementing a scheme namely Food Safety & Quality Assurance Infrastructure under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) to assist the Setting-up/Up-gradation of Food Testing Laboratories in the country. Under the said scheme 162 Food Testing Laboratories have been assisted by MoFPI till 15.03.2023

ANNEXURE

State-wise number of Food Testing Laboratories in the Country

No. of Primary labs notified by FSSAI u/s 43 (1), FSSA 2006							No. of Referral labs notified by FSSAI u/s 43 (2), FSSA 2006
		State Government Owned Labs	FSSAI Owned Labs	FSSAI Owned and Run on PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode	Labs owned by Government Institutions (Other than FSSAI)	Private Owned Labs	Referral labs (All Government Owned Labs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	–			1	5	1
2	Andman & Nicobar Islands	–			–	–	–
3	Arunachal Pradesh	–			–	–	–
4	Assam	1			–	–	–
5	Bihar	1	1			–	–
6	Chandigarh	–			–	–	–
7	Chhattisgarh	1			–	–	–
8	Dadar Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	–			–	1	–
9	GNCT of Delhi	1			1	17	–
10	Goa	1			–	1	–
11	Gujarat	6			2	9	1
12	Haryana	2			1	17	2
13	Himachal Pradesh	1			–	1	–
14	Jammu & Kashmir	2			–	–	–
15	Jharkhand	1			–	1	–
16	Karnataka	2			–	16	2
17	Kerala	3			6	6	2
18	Ladakh	–			–	–	–
19	Lakshadweep	–			–	–	–
20	Madhya Pradesh	1			–	6	–
21	Maharashtra	4		1	1	25	4
22	Manipur	1			–	–	–
23	Meghalaya	1			–	–	–
24	Mizoram	–			–	–	–
25	Nagaland	1			–	–	–
26	Odisha	1			–	1	–
27	Puducherry	–			–	–	–

28	Punjab	1			1	2	1
29	Rajasthan	9			1	5	–
30	Sikkim	–			–	–	–
31	Tamil Nadu	6		1	1	15	3
32	Telangana	1			–	8	3
33	Tripura	1			1	–	–
34	Uttar Pradesh	5		1	3	5	2
35	Uttarakhand	1			–	1	–
36	West Bengal	2	1		4	4	1
Total		57	2	3	23	146	22
		231					