

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2819
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th MARCH, 2026**

VACANCIES IN FSSAI

2819. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

- (a) the number of vacant posts in the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether Government has taken note of the 163rd Report on Demands for Grants 2025 - 26 highlighting that a significant number of vacancies is affecting FSSAI's regulatory efficiency;
- (c) the reasons for the persistent delays in filling these posts; and
- (d) the steps being taken to expedite recruitment, reduce dependence on contractual staff and ensure adequate permanent staffing for effective food safety oversight across all States and Union Territories?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (d): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is mandated to lay down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. The implementation and enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 is a shared responsibility between the Central and State Governments. While the FSSAI, is responsible for laying down science-based standards and ensuring overall coordination, the State Food Safety Authorities are primarily responsible for enforcement at the field level.

FSSAI has Sanctioned Strength of 822 officers created by FSS (Recruitment and Appointment) Regulations, 2018. Number of vacant posts in FSSAI in last five years is as below:

As on date	2022	2023	2024	2025	01.01.2026
Total Vacancy	271	275	286	300	320

As of the third quarter of FY 2025-26, the cumulative sanctioned strength for Designated Officers (DOs) across all States and UTs stands at 718, with 668 positions currently filled. In the Food Safety Officer (FSO) cadre, there are 4,208 sanctioned posts, of which 2,997 are filled.

FSSAI, taking the observation of 163d report on Demands for Grants 2025 - 26 into cognizance has undertaken following measures:

- The manpower position of Designated Officer (DO) and Food Safety Officers (FSO) in the States/UTs is reviewed in the meetings of the Central Advisory Committee (CAC) held on a quarterly interval, wherein the States/UTs are urged for filing up of the existing vacancies and the expansion of sanctioned posts to ensure proportionate oversight of the growing number of registered food businesses.
- The matter is reviewed in Inter State Zonal Councils meetings.
