

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2840
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17th MARCH, 2026**

UNIFORM AND EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF FOOD SAFETY LAWS

2840. DR. AJEET MADHAVRAO GOPCHADE:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of persistent inter-State variations in enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, despite advisories issued by FSSAI;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken a nationwide assessment of deficiencies in food-testing laboratories, including shortages of trained manpower, lack of modern testing facilities and low conviction rates in food adulteration cases across States;
- (c) whether institutional reforms, including a nationally coordinated food safety implementation policy and strengthened enforcement mechanisms, are under consideration; and
- (d) whether legislative or financial measures are proposed to ensure uniform implementation of food safety laws across States, bridge infrastructure and human resource gaps?

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.

For compliance with the set standards, limits, & other statutory requirements under the Act and food safety & standards regulations (FSSR), FSSAI, through its 4 (four) Regional offices and State/UT food safety authorities conducts regular localized/targeted special enforcement and surveillance drives including National Annual Surveillance Plan (NASP),

inspections and sampling activities throughout the year. Further, FSSAI has developed Risk Based Inspection System (RBIS) where frequency of inspection is decided based on risk associated with Food business and issued guidelines. If any deviations from the standards or violations to the FSSR are observed, the defaulting food business operators (FBOs) including food service establishments have been subjected to regulatory actions, including punitive measures, as stipulated under the FSS Act, 2006 and rules and regulations made thereunder.

FSSAI has notified 252 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited food testing laboratories for analysis of food samples. In addition, 24 Referral Food Laboratories have been notified for the analysis of appellate samples. FSSAI has also provided funds for Mobile Food Testing Laboratory (MFTL) referred to as “Food Safety on wheels” (FSW) to States/UTs. It is an important means to combat adulteration as FSWs are equipped with basic infrastructure for on spot testing of adulteration in various food commodities. Currently, 305 FSWs are deployed across 35 States/UTs. However, State Food Testing Laboratories (SFTLs) are established and operated by respective State Food Safety Departments.

In the States/UTs, 2997 Food Safety Officers are working against 4208 sanctioned posts and 668 Designated Officers are working against 718 sanctioned posts.

To strengthen the capacity of the manpower, regular training programmes are conducted by FSSAI for the regulatory and laboratory officials. FSSAI has published Food Safety Officer’s Manual and the manuals for laboratories as well, in order to align entire regulatory system.

FSSAI also extends financial and technical assistance to States/UTs for strengthening of food safety infrastructure in the country. The support includes the following:

- Strengthening Enforcement and Compliance such as Licensing and Registration, inspections and Audits, Sampling and Testing of Enforcement and Surveillance Samples;
- Consumer Grievance Redressal;
- Capacity Building for Officers;
- Strengthening of Food Testing Ecosystem such as High End/ Basic equipment for labs;
- Promotion of FSSAI initiatives such as Eat Right Campus, Eat Right School;
- Flexi Assistance such as Hiring of vehicles for undertaking inspection and sampling by FSOs and DOs.
