

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2320
ANSWERED ON 07th AUGUST 2026

FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES IN KERALA

2320. Shri Haris Beeran:

Will the Minister of *Food Processing Industries* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of Government and private food testing laboratories in Kerala that have received financial assistance under the Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure Scheme;
- (b) the quantum of grant-in-aid disbursed to each laboratory over the last five years;
- (c) whether Government has identified any infrastructural deficit in Kerala regarding the testing of export-oriented marine and spice products and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to ensure that all assisted laboratories in the State achieve NABL accreditation and FSSAI notification within the stipulated timeframe?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN)

(a) to (d) Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) implements the demand-driven Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure (FSQAI) component, providing financial assistance for food testing laboratories rather than establishing them directly. As of 30 June 2026, seven projects in Kerala have been approved and completed.

While most export-oriented seafood processing units maintain in-house laboratories for chemical and microbiological testing, MPEDA's headquarters in Ernakulam offers a state-of-the-art facility accredited by the Export Inspection Council, FSSAI, and NABL. This laboratory supports both pre-export testing and national monitoring programs - National Residue Control Plan (NRCP) and Monitoring of Pesticide at National Level (MPRRNL) - though its full capacity remains under utilised by seafood exporters

NABL accreditation is mandatory under the FSQAI Scheme. The scheme reimburses 100% of the registration fee and provides financial assistance for a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) to support accuracy, traceability, transparency, and NABL compliance.

The details of the projects approved by the Ministry in Kerala along with grants-in-aid released to the laboratories and current NABL accreditation/ FSSAI notification status of the assisted laboratories is given at **Annexure-I**.

Annexure referred in reply to part (a) to (d) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2320 for answer on 07.08.2026 regarding “Food Testing Laboratories in Kerala”

Project-wise details of the Government and private food testing laboratories in Kerala that have received financial assistance under the Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure Scheme of Ministry of Food Processing Industries in Kerala along with grants-in-aid released to the laboratories and current NABL accreditation/ FSSAI notification status of the assisted laboratories

Sl. No.	Project Name	District	Sector	Date of Completion	Grant-in-aid (Rs. In Lakhs)	Status
1.	Council for Food Research and Development (CFRD), Kochi	Pathanamthitta	Autonomous	28.03.2012	484.40	NABL Accredited and FSSAI notified
2.	Interfield Laboratories	Kochi	Private	13.11.2014	238.00	FSSAI recognized under Integrated Assessment of NABL
3.	Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)	Kochi	Autonomous	01.11.2021	76.3	FSSAI recognized under Integrated Assessment of NABL
4.	GeoChem Laboratories Pvt. Ltd.	Aroor	Private	28.02.2023	53.92	FSSAI recognized under Integrated Assessment of NABL
5.	CIFT Cochin	Kochi	Autonomous	09.03.2024	780.83	FSSAI recognized under Integrated Assessment of NABL
6.	CSIR-NIIST	Thiruvananthapuram	Autonomous	26.03.2024	353.02	FSSAI recognized under Integrated Assessment of NABL
7.	Interfield Laboratories	Kochi	Private	21.02.2025	433.47	FSSAI recognized under Integrated Assessment of NABL
