

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3193
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH JANUARY, 2018**

SAMPLES FROM IMPORTED FOOD

**3193. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:**

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

- (a) whether the Government draw samples from each imported food consignment for testing in their laboratories;
- (b) if so, the number of such samples tested during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the violation of the standard food safety norms in such testing have come to the notice of the Government during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government against such violations;
- (e) whether the Government has received representations from industry associations to do away with the said practice and switch over to the international norm of random and risk-based inspections; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government on such representations so far?

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

(a) & (b): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is present at six locations (ports) viz., Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin and Tuticorin covering 21 points of entry. Food Import Clearance System (FICS) of FSSAI is an online system operational at above mentioned six ports only. Risk based inspection is in operation since May, 2016, so only selected Bills of Entry are subjected to scrutiny of documents, visual inspection, sampling and testing. Only the food items which clear the visual inspection stage are subjected to sampling and laboratory testing. The number of approved/rejected imported food consignments by FSSAI's Authorised Officers as per available information in FICS for last three years and current year at aforesaid six locations is at **Annexure**. However, there are another 136 locations throughout the country where Customs officers have been notified as Authorised Officers by FSSAI.

(c) & (d): With regards to action taken in respect of non-conforming imported food items, FSSAI has informed that as per sub-regulation 16(1) of Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017:

“On receipt of the non-conformance report, the custodian or importer shall dispose of the imported food consignment in accordance with the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962), provided that no food consignment shall be disposed off until the period of limitation is over for filing of review application against the order of the Authorised Officer”.

(e) & (f): FSSAI invites comments from all stakeholders, including World Trade Organisation (WTO) members, and takes the same into consideration before finalising any new regulations or amendments in existing regulations. Accordingly, FSSAI has notified Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017 on 09.03.2017. Further, chapter 7 of FSS (Import) Regulations, 2017 provides that :

“The Food Authority may review the risks associated with articles of food imports from time to time and adopt a risk-based framework and risk based inspection process for clearance of imported articles of food”.

Chapter 7 also provides that for implementing risk-based framework and risk based inspection process, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India shall profile the Importer, Custom House Agents, imported product, manufacturer of the imported product, country of origin, source country of the consignment, port of entry, compliance history and any other parameters deemed fit for profiling the risk associated with the commodity. Customs through its Single Window has already started implementation of Risk Management System (RMS) in consultation with FSSAI.

Annexure

Details of all imported food consignments for past three years and current year (1st April, 2014 to 28th December, 2017) at six locations (ports) viz., Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin and Tuticorin

Year	Total Number of food consignments	Approved	Rejected
2015(1 Apr 2014 -31 Mar 2015)	64804	63548	1256
2016 (1sApr2015 – 31 Mar-2016)	73536	72401	1135
2017 (1 Apr2016 - 31 Mar 2017)	60360	59687	673
2018(1 Apr2017 - 28 Dec 2017)	10732	10601	131
Total	209432	206237	3195