

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2979**  
ANSWERED ON 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2018

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN FPI

**2979. SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:**

**SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:**

**SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:**

Will the MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is lagging far behind in matching global standards of food safety and quality and if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;
- (b) whether there is lack of world class food testing laboratories in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether there is a need for sustained campaign to educate consumers and promote quality assurance in Food Processing industries and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether there has been slow progress of operationalisation of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) signed for setting up food processing projects in the country and if so, the details thereof along with the Government's reaction thereto; and
- (e) other corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard, so far?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a) India has robust standards setting mechanism under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made therein. As on date, more than 11000 food standards and additives provisions have been notified which are globally benchmarked and made effective after considering food standards of developed/developing countries and harmonisation with Codex Standards. Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has also globally benchmarked safe food practices that include developing Manuals for Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS), setting up third party audits and Indian Certification for hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and General Hygienic Practices (GHP).

(b) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) notifies only those food testing laboratories which are compliant to ISO 17025, which is an international standard for accreditation of testing laboratories. As on date FSSAI has notified 161 ISO:17025 accredited food laboratories and 16 ISO:17025 accredited referral laboratories in the country under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.

Further, a Central Sector Scheme for "Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country Including Provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs" has been rolled out by the FSSAI with an outlay

of Rs. 481.95 Crore for the period from 2016-17 to 2018-19. One of the major components of the scheme is capacity building of food testing laboratories. The ultimate objective of this component is to ensure that all the State Food testing laboratories attain the NABL accreditation and bring them at par with international standards.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries, under the Scheme for Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure provides financial assistance in the form of Grant – in – aid for Setting up / Up gradation of Food Testing Laboratories with the aim to have a network of laboratories to help in implementing the quality regime for processed food and also to help in better enforcement of the Food Safety regulatory activities. Under the Scheme, Central/State Government organizations/ Government universities (including deemed universities) and all other implementing agencies/private sector organizations/universities (including deemed universities) are eligible for grant-in-aid as per the revised scheme guidelines w.e.f. 01.01.2017.

(c) FSSAI has launched a Safe and Nutritious Food (SNF) campaign covering home, school, workplace and eating out. Under this initiative, consumer education, awareness training and capacity building is the key focus. Consumers are being made aware & educated about various aspects of food safety & hygiene through various communication platforms, print and outdoor media campaigns, digital and social mela, documentary films, education booklets, staff at Fairs/Melas/Events and Mass awareness Campaigns.

Quality Assurance in food processing industries is being promoted through various measures initiated by FSSAI such as notifying globally benchmarked Standards and additives provisions, preparing guidance documents to assist food industries (especially the small and medium businesses) in implementing food hygiene and safety requirements by providing practical approaches which a business should adopt to ensure food safety throughout the process being handled by them; introducing third party audit of Food Business Operators, training of nearly 14,000 food handlers and food safety supervisors on aspects of food safety and hygiene through 700 training programmes under Food Safety Training and Certification (FoSTaC) programme etc.,

(d) & (e): Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) were signed/announced during World Food India 2017 with investment intent of around US Dollar 13.56 billion. The MOUs signed are meant for setting up food processing projects in different locations in India in the sub-sectors such as fruits and vegetables, packaged foods and confectionaries, Retail & e-commerce, Cold Chain, Warehousing and Logistics, Cereals and Oilseed processing, dairy, fisheries, poultry and meat and others.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been regularly monitoring the progress of the MOUs signed during World Food India 2017 to facilitate early grounding /operationalisation of the projects under the said MOUs. For ensuring continuous monitoring and smooth facilitation of grounding of the projects, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has also made one MOU tracker with the assistance of Invest India under Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Hence, as of now, progress relating to operationalisation of the projects under the MOUs is moving as per timeline planned.

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