

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4764
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23rd MARCH, 2018**

IMPORT OF SUB-STANDARD FOOD CONSIGNMENTS

**4764. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI PREM DAS RAI:**

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

- (a) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has recently decided to ease the norms in testing of imported food consignments, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that there is no mechanism to check quality of food items imported from across international borders especially from China and Bangladesh; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and necessary steps taken in this regard?

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

(a) to (c): For ease of doing business, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had integrated Food Import Clearance System (FICS) with the Indian Customs Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data interchange Gateway (ICEGATE) under Single Window Clearance Interface to Facilitate Trade (SWIFT) at major ports. Customs Officers have been notified as Authorised Officers under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 at 136 locations to maintain parity of testing and import clearance. 161 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited laboratories have been notified by FSSAI for primary testing of food samples of imported consignments, besides 18 appellate laboratories. Customs, in consultation with FSSAI, has introduced Risk Management System (RMS) under which testing and analysis of imported food is limited and reduced. Thus, the quality of food imported from various borders points is checked adequately to ensure that imported food is safe for human consumption.