

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2813
TO BE ANSWERED ON 3RD AUGUST, 2018**

THIRD PARTY FOOD SAFETY AUDIT

2813. SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM:

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

- (a) whether the Government has initiated the process of getting third party safety audit of food conducted in various places of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the aims and objectives thereto;
- (c) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has empanelled national and international agencies to audit food safety and hygiene standards of canteens, cafeterias and hostel mess of several IITs and IIMs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b): Yes. Section 44 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 prescribes that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) may recognise any organisation or agency for the purposes of food safety audit and checking compliance with food safety managements systems required under the Act or the Rules and Regulations made there under. Accordingly, FSSAI has drafted the Food Safety and Standards (Foods Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2017. Primary objectives of these regulations are:
 - a) to strengthen the food safety surveillance system;
 - b) to reduce the regulatory food safety inspections conducted by Central/State Licensing Authorities in case of satisfactory third party audits
 - c) to encourage self compliance among Food Business Operators as they may opt for voluntary audits.
- (c) & (d): FSSAI has so far recognised 20 food safety auditing agencies under the draft Food Safety and Standard (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2017 to conduct food safety audits for all categories of food businesses. Out of these 20 empanelled agencies, some have volunteered for conducting food safety audit of canteen/hostel mess etc. of higher educational institutes.

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