

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 704
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH DECEMBER, 2018**

FOOD SAFETY MECHANISM

704. SHRI OM BIRLA:

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

- (a) whether it is true that India lacks a robust food safety mechanism for the welfare of its citizens , if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to create the same;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of the fact that poor implementation of the Food Laws has resulted in rampant food adulteration and various food scandals;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard; and
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government to address the issue of poor food safety infrastructure in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments. FSSAI has been created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

Food Safety and Standards Rules and Regulations, 2011 have been notified under the Act and came into force with effect from 5th August, 2011. The FSS Act, 2006 in its essentials involves having an effective enforcement machinery to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food to the consumers. The enforcement machinery in States/UTs includes Food Safety Commissioner, Designated Officers (DOs) and Food Safety Officers (FSOs). The Designated Officers at the District Level and Food Safety Officers at sub-district level assist

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Food Safety Commissioner in enforcing the provisions of FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made thereunder. To make the food safety system robust, FSSAI has set norms and has continually been following up with States/UTs to increase manpower i.e. strength of DOs/FSOs for effective compliance of provisions of FSS Act, 2006. The frequency of Central Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings has been increased in recent years for better interaction and engagement.

Further, to strengthen the food safety surveillance system, Food Safety and Standards (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2018 had been notified and accordingly FSSAI has initiated audits of Food Business Operators through third party auditing agencies. Special Drives for Licensing/ Registration of Food Business Operators are carried out throughout the country from time to time to bring all food business operators under the ambit of FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made there under. In addition, regular surveillance, monitoring and inspection and sampling of food products are carried out by Food Safety Officers of State/UT Governments to check compliance of the provisions laid down under FSS Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made there under.

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