

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.634
TO BE ANSWERED ON 9th DECEMBER, 2022**

OPENING FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES AT BLOCK LEVEL

634. SHRI RATANSINH MAGANSINH RATHOD:

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

- (a) the number of food testing laboratories opened in the country particularly in the backward areas during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government has any proposal to open more such laboratories at block level in future; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (c): Food Authority has notified 225 food laboratories under Section 43 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 for primary food sample testing and 21 referral laboratories till October, 2022. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that opening of new food testing laboratories is not under the purview of FSSAI. It is responsibility of the States to establish the Food Testing Laboratories in the States. FSSAI provides financial support for procurement of equipment, purchase of consumables, hiring of contractual manpower for a specified period and capacity building of the lab staff.

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