

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3136
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2019**

FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES

**3136. SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:
SHRI RAMESH CHANDER KAUSHIK:**

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

- (a) the details of laboratories to test food samples in the country, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) whether there is lack of food testing laboratories and adequate modern equipment to test food samples in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is lack of uniformity in test standards which lead to contradiction in test results; and
- (d) if so, whether the Government has formulated any action plan to deal with this situation?

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

(a): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at present has a network of 262 laboratories across the country comprising of 244 laboratories for primary testing and 18 laboratories for appellate (referral) testing recognized & notified under sections 43(1) and 43(2) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 respectively. The category-wise composition of these laboratories is as below-

(a)	Primary Food Testing laboratories	
	State Food laboratories	13
	Central Government institutes/autonomous bodies	21
	Private laboratories	149
	State Government laboratories under transition provision*	61
	Total	244
(b)	Appellate (Referral) Food Testing laboratories	
	Central Government institutes/autonomous bodies	16
	FSSAI's own laboratories	02
	Total	18
	Grand Total	262

(*brought from the PFA regime; working under the transition provision of section 98 of Food Safety and Standards Act 2006). State/UT-wise number of these laboratories is **Annexed**.

(b): No. At present, the country has adequate number of food testing laboratories. Insofar as State Food Testing Laboratories are concerned, FSSAI is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for “*Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country including Provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs*” with an outlay of Rs. 481.95 crore. Further, most of the private laboratories have adequate modern equipment to conduct various kinds of tests for checking the food samples.

(c) to (d): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has prescribed the testing methods in its 14 FSSAI Manuals of Methods of Analysis for testing of food products as per standards for food products prescribed under various regulations of FSSAI. In addition to these Manuals, several other methods on need basis have also been developed from time to time.

State- wise number of food testing laboratories in the country

S. No.	State/UT	Food Testing labs notified under Section 43(1)_ of FSS Act, 2006			State Food Laboratories under Transition phase	Referral Laboratories notified under Section 43(2) of FSS Act, 2006
		Government		Private		
		State	Other Institutions			
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-		-	-	-
2	Andhra Pradesh	-	1	5	1	1
3	Assam	-	-	-	1	-
4	Bihar	-	-	-	1	-
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	1	-
6	Daman & Diu	-	-	1	-	-
7	GNCT of Delhi	-	-	20	1	-
8	Goa	-	-	1	1	-
9	Gujarat	4	-	10	1	1
10	Haryana	-	-	14	2	-
11	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	1	1	-
12	Jammu & Kashmir	-	1	-	2	-
13	Jharkhand	-	-	1	1	-
14	Karnataka	-	-	13	5	2
15	Kerala	3	6	7	-	2
16	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	8	1	-
17	Maharashtra	2	2	25	15	3
18	Manipur	-	-	-	1	-
19	Meghalaya	-	-	-	1	-
20	Nagaland	-	-	-	1	-
21	Odisha	-	-	1	1	-
22	Puducherry	-	-	-	1	-
23	Punjab	-	1	2	1	1
24	Rajasthan	-	1	5	8	-
25	Sikkim	-	-	-	1	-
26	Tamil Nadu	-	1	17	6	2
27	Telangana	1	-	9	-	3
28	Tripura	-	1	-	1	-
29	Uttar Pradesh	2	3	4	4	2
30	Uttarakhand	-	-	1	1	-
31	West Bengal	1	4	4	-	1
	Total	13	21	149	61	18

Source: States/UTs.