

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2217
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH DECEMBER, 2021**

FOOD TESTING LAB

2217. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:

SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether a number of food testing laboratories are ill equipped, insufficient and understaffed thereby hampering food testing and diluting the deterrence against rampant practice of food adulteration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of food testing laboratories set up, State/UT-wise including Bihar;
- (d) the number out of the above testing laboratories that meet the international standards;
- (e) whether the Government has taken steps to upgrade these laboratories and also provide adequate staff, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE**

(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a to e): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that there are 222 laboratories recognised by FSSAI for primary testing and 19 laboratories for Referral food samples. All the notified laboratories are National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited. FSSAI, under a Central Sector Scheme, has provided funds for upgradation of 39 State Food Testing labs with high end equipments and/or establishment of microbiology laboratory etc.

FSSAI has also provided 160 Mobile Food Testing Laboratories (Food Safety on Wheels) to states/UTs which can be utilised for testing of food products even in remote areas.

The state wise list of laboratories notified by FSSAI is placed at **Annexure**.

The pre-requisite for notifying/recognizing the laboratories under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 is NABL accreditation. NABL grants accreditation to the testing Laboratories in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (i.e international standard) and also provides grant to States for NABL accreditation, purchase of High End Equipment, Basic Equipment, Certified Reference Materials, Consumables and providing Manpower (contractual staff) etc. towards strengthening of food ecosystem in States/ UTs.

FSSAI implements a Central Sector Scheme named “Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country including provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs (SoFTeL)” under which funds are released for setting up and their upgradation with basic lab equipment, High End Equipment and Microbiology lab.

.....

1. Number of Primary Food Testing Laboratories u/s 43(1) of FSS Act, 2006:

Delhi:20, Haryana:19, Himachal Pradesh:2, Jammu & Kashmir:3, Punjab:4, Rajasthan:15, Uttrakhand:2, Uttar Pradesh: 14, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu:1, Gujarat: 17, Madhya Pradesh:8, Maharashtra:29, Goa:2, Andhra Pradesh:7, Karnataka:15, Kerala:15, Tamilnadu:23, Telangana:10, Assam:1, Jharkhand:1, Chattisgarh:1, Odisha:1, Nagaland:1, Tripura:1 and West Bengal:10.

2. Number of Referral Laboratories u/s 43(2) of FSS Act, 2006:

Haryana:1, Punjab:1, Uttar Pradesh:2, Gujarat:1, Maharashtra:3, Andhra Pradesh:1, Karnataka:2, Kerala:2, Tamil Nadu:2, Telangana:3, West Bengal:1

3. Status of Bihar:

The State of Bihar had only 1 State Food Testing Laboratory named as Combined Food & Drug Laboratory (CFDL) Agamkuan, Patna. FSSAI has released grants Rs. 09.55 crore for upgradation of the Lab.