

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1034  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY, 2016**

**PACKAGED FOOD**

**1034. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the trust deficit has increased between consumers and packaged food companies after Government banned the Maggie noodle brand and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether demand for packaged food and snacks has come down due to the trust deficit, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the further steps taken by the Government to bridge the deficit and promote packaged food amongst consumers;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to make stringent laws/strictly implement the existing laws to avoid such instances; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and steps taken in this regard?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)**

- (a): Government is aware of the concerns of the food processing industries. All steps considered necessary for promoting the interest of consumers through availability of safe and wholesome food and growth of food processing industry are being taken by the Government.
- (b): No such data is available with the Government.
- (c): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is promoting growth of food processing sector through schemes aimed at creation of infrastructure including mega food parks, cold chain, modernisation of public abattoirs, setting up/upgradation of food testing laboratories and assistance for R&D in processed food. Further, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is in constant dialogue with the organizations representing consumers and food processing industry.
- (d) & (e): A number of steps have been taken by the Government to improve the regulatory procedures/processes with a view to ensure safe and wholesome food and also improve the ease of doing business and enhancing transparency and predictability in decision making. These include increasing the number of scientific panels under FSSAI and frequency of their meetings, harmonization of food standards with international practices/standards and laying down more standards. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and random sampling of food products is also undertaken by officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to ensure that they comply with the standards laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and the rules and regulations made thereunder. In cases, where the food samples are found to be non-conforming to prescribed standards, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act, 2006.