

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2125
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29th JULY, 2022**

FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES

2125. **SHRI P.C. MOHAN:**
SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA:
SHRI S. VENKATESAN:

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

(a) the details of modern Food Testing Laboratories that are authorised for testing food products as per standards prescribed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Food Safety and Standards Act and Regulations, State/UT-wise including Karnataka;

(b) the details of Referral Laboratories under FSSAI which are authorised for referral testing, State/UT-wise;

(c) the data of private laboratories notified by FSSAI, State/UT-wise;

(d) the details of funds allocated and utilized for food testing laboratories during the last three years and the current year and the steps taken/being taken by the Government for establishing well equipped modern food testing laboratories in each district of the country for preventing food adulteration;

(e) whether the Government proposes to encourage unemployed youth for establishing the said laboratories and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether his Ministry has formulated any regulations on Genetically Modified foods under Section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act and 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 Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that it has recognized/notified 224 food testing laboratories (including 53 state government laboratories, 145 private laboratories and 26 other government laboratories for primary testing and 20 laboratories for testing referral food samples). The state wise list of notified laboratories, including Karnataka is at **Annexure I**.

(d) & (e): FSSAI does not establish primary food testing labs but recognises and notifies labs based on voluntary applications. Further, FSSAI is implementing a Central Sector Scheme named “*Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country including provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs (SOFTeL)*” under which State Food Testing Laboratories (SFTLs) are

provided funds for setting up lab with basic lab equipment, installation of high end equipment and establishing microbiology lab. FSSAI has also provided grants to States for National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation, Certified Reference Materials, Consumables and for hiring contractual manpower. The details of funds allocated and utilized during last three years and current year under the said Scheme is at **Annexure II**.

To extend reach of basic testing facilities even in remote areas, FSSAI has sanctioned/provided 254 mobile food testing labs called Food Safety on Wheels (FSWs).

Ministry of Food Processing Industries has informed that total Food Testing Laboratories (FTL) projects completed from 2019 till date is 41 and on an average 37 persons have been employed in each FTL project. Therefore, total direct and indirect employment generated since 2019 is 1517. The details of funds released for food testing laboratories by Ministry of Food Processing Industries is Rs.25.96 crore in 2019-20, Rs.23.32crore in 2020-21 and Rs.34.43 crore in 2021-22.

(f): Draft Regulations for Genetically Modified foods have been notified.

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State-wise number of Food Testing Laboratories in the Country

S. No	State/UT	Food Testing labs notified under Section 43(1) of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006			Referral Laboratories notified under Section 43(2) of FSS Act, 2006
		Government		Private	
		State	Other Institutions		
1	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	-	-
2	Andhra Pradesh	-	1	6	1
3	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-
4	Assam	1	-	-	-
5	Bihar	-	-	-	-
6	Chandigarh	-	-	-	-
7	Chhattisgarh	1	-	-	-
8	Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	-	-	1	-
9	GNCT of Delhi	1	1	17	-
10	Goa	1	-	1	-
11	Gujarat	6	2	9	1
12	Haryana	2	1	17	1
13	Himachal Pradesh	1	-	1	-
14	Jammu & Kashmir	2	-	-	-
15	Jharkhand	-	-	1	-
16	Karnataka	-	-	15	2
17	Kerala	3	6	6	2
18	Ladakh	-	-	-	-
19	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-

20	Madhya Pradesh	1	-	6	-
21	Maharashtra	4	2	24	4
22	Manipur	1	-	-	-
23	Meghalaya	1	-	-	-
24	Mizoram	-	-	-	-
25	Nagaland	1	-	-	-
26	Odisha	1	-	1	-
27	Puducherry	-	-	-	-
28	Punjab	1	1	2	1
29	Rajasthan	9	1	5	-
30	Sikkim	-	-	-	-
31	Tamil Nadu	6	1	15	2
32	Telangana	1	-	8	3
33	Tripura	1	1	-	-
34	Uttar Pradesh	5	4	5	2
35	Uttarakhand	1	-	1	-
36	West Bengal	2	5	4	1
	Total	53	26	145	20

ANNEXURE-II**Details of funds allocated and utilized during last three years and current year under SOFTeL Scheme****Rs in crore**

S. No	Component	Total Fund allocated for strengthening of Food Testing Laboratories since 2016-17 under Central Sector Scheme and otherwise	Funds Utilised during last three years and current year			
			2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
1	Upgradation of SFTLs with – high end equipment	474.03	89.18	1.00	6.80	28.99
2	Upgradation/Setting of basic functional FTLs	60.12	5.00	0.00	4.17	3.63
5	Provision of 2 manpower in each lab	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	1.47
6	Support for NABL accreditation and introduction of LIMS	8.60	0.00	0.00	0.46	0.54
7	Rapid Testing Kits/Hand-held devices	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	0.82