

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:619  
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2010  
FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES  
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

**Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:**

- (a) the number of food testing laboratories set up in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether these laboratories are up to the level of international norms of the industry;
- (c) if not, whether the Government proposes to upgrade these laboratories;
- (d) the number of laboratories likely to be upgraded/modernized in Bihar;and
- (e) the total amount sanctioned and spent for the purpose during the last three years till date and the current year?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

(a) to (b): As per the study got conducted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), 312 food testing laboratories are functioning in Public and Private sector in the country. State-wise details are at Annexure- I. The study observed that only few laboratories are fully equipped to cater to the domestic regulatory testing and export testing needs of the industry.

(c) to (d): Although MFPI does not set up food testing laboratories on its own, it provides financial assistance for setting up/ up-gradation of food testing laboratories under its Plan Scheme to various stakeholders such as Central/State Government organizations IITs, Universities, private sector organizations. The schemes operated by MFPI are not State specific. At the moment there is no proposal to set up food testing laboratories pending for the state of Bihar. The proposals received from States and other stakeholders for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories are considered as per guidelines of this Ministry. During the 11th Plan, MFPI has a target to set up/ upgrade 74 food testing labs in the country.

(e): An amount of Rs. 18.70 crore was spent during the last three years for setting up/ upgradation of food testing laboratories. During the current year an amount of Rs.5.48 crore has been spent so far.