

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3523  
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2010  
STANDARDS OF EDIBLE OIL  
Thakor Shri Jagdish

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

- (a) the existing devices available for testing the purity of edible oils in the country and the details of assistance being given by the Government for strengthening them;
- (b) whether the quality of edible oil in the country is as per the acceptable global standards;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has received requests/proposals in regard to setting essential quality standards for edible oils in order to fulfil global quality standards; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) There are 72 food laboratories in the country at District, State and Central level including four laboratories set up by the Central Government for testing of food products, including edible oils, under the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 and the PFA Rules, 1955. The up-gradation of facilities and strengthening of food testing laboratories is a continuous and ongoing process, depending on the needs of particular laboratories. Recently, three new food testing laboratories have been constructed by the Central Government, namely, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Sonauli (U.P.) and Raxaul (Bihar).

(b) & (e) The standards of edible oils have been laid down under PFA Rules 1955 which have been set taking into account the Indian conditions and the Codex standards. A request has been received to align the standards of olive oil prescribed under PFA rules, 1955 with that of Codex Standards. Such request are put through a process of risk assessment as per the laid down procedure before a final decision is taken.