

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3071  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2010  
DOMESTIC FOOD REGULATIONS  
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes harmonization of domestic food regulations with international standards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to step-up the testing facilities, including upgradation of scientific instruments in quality assurance labs for the proper testing of raw and finished food products;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a): As per the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 the Central Government has constituted Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. Its mandate inter alia includes promoting consistency between international technical standards and domestic food standards, while ensuring that the level of protection adopted in the country is not reduced.

(b): Same as above.

(c): Setting up and upgradation of food testing laboratories is a continuous and ongoing process. During the 11th Plan, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has a target to set up/ upgrade 74 food testing labs in the country. Ministry of Food Processing Industries 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. Under the scheme, the ministry provides grant-in-aid of entire cost of laboratory equipments, 25% of the cost of technical civil works to house the equipments, furniture & fixtures in general areas and 33% in difficult areas is provided to Central/State Government organizations IITs, Universities. All other implementing agencies/private sector organization are provided grant-in-aid of 50% of laboratory equipments and 25% of cost of technical civil works to Central/State Government organizations like IITs, Universities & in difficult areas the grant-in-aid is 70% of cost of lab equipments and 33% of technical civil works.

(d): Same as (c) above.

(e): Same as (c) above.