

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:913
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2011
IMPORTED FOOD
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

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

- (a) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has taken up the matter with the concerned authority to interconnect certain ports in the country with a view to facilitate fast movement of imported food;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are certain obstacles coming in the way of speedy availability of imported food in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/ proposed in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI)

(a) to (e) No. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has the mandate of ensuring safety of food items imported into the country also. The FSSAI has operationalized imported food clearance process in a phased manner during August-September, 2010 through appointment of Authorized Officers in terms of section 47(5) of the Food Safety and Standards Act,2006 initially at selected 5 ports viz. Chennai, Kolkata. Haldia, Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust. The authorized officers take samples of the imported food consignments on receiving intimation from the Customs officer and give their clearance after getting them tested by notified laboratories. No hold up has been reported from any port in clearance of any imported food item by the authorized officer.