

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1524
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011
EXPERTS IN SCIENTIFIC PANELS OF FSSAI
Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has appointed experts linked to food and softdrink companies on its Scientific Committee/Panels;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Supreme Court has asked the Government to remove these experts from the Committee/Panels;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the follow up action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIGHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has appointed independent scientific experts as members of its Scientific Committee/Panels as per section 13 (1) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. In the eight Scientific Panels and the Scientific Committee constituted by the Authority, at present there are 13 scientists who are employed in private companies out of a total of 123 scientists (10%). In addition to private sector scientists, the Scientific Committee / Panels also have eminent scientists from various reputed Government institutes / organizations like Central Food Technological Research Institute, National Dairy Research Institute, Translational Health Science & Technology Institute, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, National Institute of Nutrition, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, IITs, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, All India Institute of Hygiene & Public Health, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, and various Agricultural university / institutes.

(c) to (e): The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has ordered the Food Authority to reconstitute the Scientific Panels in terms of section 13 (1) of the Food Safety and Standards Act (34 of 2006), 2006. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is taking steps to comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.