

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1968
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2011
REGULATORY AUTHORITY
Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

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

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a regulatory authority to ensure hygienic standards of food served at various eateries in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of food testing laboratories proposed to be set up in the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check illegal import of food items in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a)& (b) : Yes. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established by the Government under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, for laying down science-based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.

(c) : There are two Central laboratories under FSSAI and seventy two food and drugs laboratories set up by the State/UT Governments. Setting up and strengthening of food laboratories depending upon the requirements of each State/UT, is an ongoing process.

(d) : The Customs are responsible for allowing entry of any food item in the country. In case of high risk food items (about 5-20%), the customs refer the matter to Authorized Officers posted by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to get the sample tested and give clearance from safety angle. FSSAI has positioned Authorized Officers in terms of section 47(5) of the FSS Act, 2006, at 14 major ports of entries (including sea, air and land).