

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:213
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012
FOOD PROCESSING COMPANIES
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahb

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

- (a) whether some food processing companies in the country do not adhere to the international standards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up any authority to look into the functioning of such companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES(DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b): Food processing industries in the country are required to adhere the rules and regulations laid down by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the provisions of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006. The FSSAI is also mandated to promote consistency between International technical standards and domestic food standards while ensuring that the level of protection adopted in the country is not reduced. Moreover, to ensure compliance of the laid down standards by food processing companies, inspection of such units at regular interval is done by the enforcement agencies under the Act. Wherever deviations are observed, penal / legal actions are taken against the defaulters as per relevant provisions of the Act.

The system of licensing which lays down the conditions for manufacture of safe food articles by food processing companies, Food Authority and the Commissioners of Food Safety of the State Governments have been empowered to enforce the provisions of the law with regard to the compliance with food standards as prescribed in the Food Safety Standards Regulations, 2011.

(c) & (d): Government has already set up Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the provisions of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) 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. FSSAI is under the administrative control of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.