

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:89

ANSWERED ON:13.03.2012

QUALITY OF PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS

Joshi Shri Mahesh;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) the details of the food security and quality assurance schemes being implemented for food processing industries in the country;
- (b) the process adopted for certification of processed food at present;
- (c) whether food processing industries are incurring losses in foreign markets due to their substandard products;
- (d) if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard; and
- (e) the details of the steps taken to ensure strict compliance of quality of processed food products and enhance the confidence of the consumers towards processed food products?

Answer

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

(a): Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) under its Plan Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research & Development and Promotional Activities provides financial assistance for implementation of HACCP/ ISO22000, ISO 14000. GHP, GMP Quality / safety management system by food processing industries in the country. Under the scheme, all implementing agencies including Central/State Government Organizations/IITs and Universities are eligible for reimbursement of 50% of cost of consultant fee, Certification Agency fee, plant and machinery and technical civil works towards implementation of Total Quality Management System including ISO14000, ISO22000, HACCP, GMP and GHP in general areas subject to maximum limit of Rs. 15 lakh and 75% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 lakh.

In addition, MFPI also provides financial assistance for setting up/up-gradation of food testing/quality control laboratories under its Plan Scheme to various stakeholders such as Central/State Government organizations IITs, Universities, and private sector organizations. The food testing facilities so established are accessible to the food processing units for testing their products in and around the area.

(b): Government has set up Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare as per 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. The Food Authority, inter-alia, mandated to lay down mechanism and guidelines for accreditation of certification bodies engaged in certification of food processing units under the Total Quality Management.

Quality Council of India (QCI) is also providing accreditation of certification bodies operating in certification of food processing units under the Total Quality Management.

The certification bodies accredited by FSSAI / QCI may provide certification to food processing units after ensuring compliance of procedures / guidelines.

(c) & (d): Food Processing Industries, for export of their food products to other countries, have to comply with the quality / safety standards of importing countries. For ensuring compliance, Export Inspection Council (EIC) and APEDA, under Ministry of Commerce & Industry have laid down procedures and guidelines for the food processing industries for export of food products. These agencies carry out inspection of the food processing units to ensure compliance of Food Safety and Quality Standards before export of specified food products and to check export of any substandard food products.

(e): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the provisions of Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 has been set up to lay down science based standards for articles of food and also regulate, inter-alia its manufacturers. The Food Authority 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.