

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2106
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012
STANDARDS OF PROCESSED FOOD INDUSTRY
Jakhar Shri Badri Ram

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to improve / develop the standards of processed food industry of the country to International Standards;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken / being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Yes, Madam.

(b): 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, Good Hygiene Practices (GHP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) quality / safety management system by food processing units 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 a maximum limit of Rs. 15 lakhs and 75% in difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 lakhs.

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.

(c): The Government has notified Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006 which envisages establishment of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution and sale as per international standards.

FSSAI is also mandated to promote consistency between International standards and domestic food standards while ensuring that the level of protection adopted in the country is not compromised. Moreover, to ensure compliance of the laid down standards by food processing units, inspection at regular intervals is also carried out by the Enforcement Agencies under the above Act.