

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3836
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012
ENFORCEMENT OF FOOD RELATED LAWS
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether food commissioners have been appointed by the States and Union Territories (UTs) as per the requirements and provisions made in the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of food commissioners appointed so far in various States and Union Territories, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the powers accorded to food commissioners and other personnel for enforcement and monitoring of food related laws without any interferences;
- (d) the mechanism adopted by the Government for accreditation of laboratories to verify the quality and quantity of food items in various States and UTs;
- (e) the total amount of contribution from the Union Government for their infrastructure for food safety management such as laboratories and certified bodies; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed for speedy trial of offenders under the food related laws?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b): Food Safety Commissioners, have been appointed in all States/UTs.
- (c): The Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, (FSSA) empowers the State Government to appoint a Commissioner of Food Safety for the State for efficient implementation of Food Safety and Standards and other requirements laid down under this Act or the Rules and Regulations made there under.
- (d): The Act has provisions for recognition and accreditation of laboratories, research institutions and referral food laboratories to verify the quality and quantity of food items. These accreditations would be done as per Rules laid down by Standard Accreditation Authorities in the country.
- (e): The total Budget allocation for the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for the year 2011-2012, was Rs. 40 crores which included development of infrastructure for Food Safety Management in Laboratories and Certified Bodies.
- (f): The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 has provisions for graded penalties. The Act also provides for setting up of an Adjudicating Mechanism and a Tribunal for ensuring speedy trial and disposal of cases.