

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6614

ANSWERED ON:07.05.2013

FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES

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

- (a) the details of food testing laboratories functioning at present in the country alongwith the number of food analyst employed therein and the number of laboratories upgraded during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to set up more such laboratories in various parts of the country during the current year;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the places selected for the purpose, State-wise;
- (d) whether the standards of food safety are identical for the items reserved for the Small Scale Industries (SSIs) and other industries; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the food items reserved for SSIs?

Answer

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

(a) As per the information provided by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, there are 140 Food Testing Laboratories in the Country for testing as per standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Authority Act, 2006 and Rules/ Regulations, 2011 being implemented by FSSAI. Out of these, 72 food testing laboratories are under State Government to carry out the analysis of food samples [Annexure – I] and 68 private laboratories having accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) are authorized by FSSAI for the analysis of food samples [Annexure – II]. There are 97 food analysts employed in the 72 laboratories under the State Government.

The details of Food Testing Laboratories established/up-graded with financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid from Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) during last three years (2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13) State-wise is given in Annexure-III. No assistance has been released during the current year (2013-14).

(b) & (c) MoFPI does not set up Food Testing Laboratories. It, however, provides assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for setting-up of such laboratories as per prescribed guidelines.

(d) & (e) The FSS (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 prescribes standards for various products and all Food Business Operators including Small Scale Industries should comply with the notified standards.

As per the information provided by office of Development Commissioner (SSI), Ministry of Small Scale Industries Gazette notification No.S.O.477(E) dated 25th July,1991 contains the list of items presently reserved for exclusive manufacture in SSI (now MSE) sector in "Food and allied industries" category, as under:

S.No. S.No. Product Code Name of The Product
(As per 20-21 FOOD AND ALLIED INDUSTRIES

gazette
Notification)

1 3 202501 Pickles & chutneys

2 7 205101 Bread

3 11 21100102 Mustard Oil (except solvent extracted)

4 13 21100104 Ground nut oil (except solvent extracted)