

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3293  
ANSWERED ON:11.02.2014  
FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES  
Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz

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

- (a) the number of food testing laboratories set up in the country including Bihar along with the number of such laboratories out of these which fulfils international standards, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that several food testing laboratories are still not fully equipped to meet the requirement of food testing;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to upgrade the said laboratories; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the number of such new laboratories proposed to be opened by the Government during the 12th Five Year Plan?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) grants accreditation for the competence of the laboratory as per international standard ISO/IEC 17025. State /UT-wise details of laboratories which meet the requirement of ISO/IEC 17025 and are accredited by NABL, belonging to the food manufacturers/ independent private laboratories/ laboratory attached with R&D Centre/Public Laboratory/ Government Laboratory, are at Annexure. The laboratories which are accredited by NABL are having the quality system in place and are competent to carry out the food test under their scope of accreditation. Non-accredited Food Testing Laboratories may or may not be fully equipped to meet the requirements of food testing.

(d) & (e): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is providing Grant-in-aid for setting up/upgradation of Food Testing Laboratories (FTL) with a view to ensure compliance of domestic/international standards on food products. Central/State Government and its organizations/universities (including deemed universities) are eligible for the entire cost of laboratory equipment required for labs and 25% of the cost of technical civil works to house the equipment, furniture and the fixtures associated with the equipment for general areas and 33% for difficult areas (J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, North-Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Integrated Tribal Development Projects [ITDP] area). All other implementing agencies/private sector organizations are eligible for grant- in-aid of 50% of cost of laboratory equipment and 25% of the cost of technical civil works to house the equipment, furniture and fixtures associated with the equipment for general areas and 70% of cost of lab equipment and 33% of technical civil works for difficult areas. The laboratories are encouraged to obtain NABL accreditation under this scheme. 30 labs have been established with the assistance of Ministry of Food Processing Industries so far.

The scheme is implemented based on the proposals received for setting up/up-gradation of FTL and also the availability of the funds.