

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4468
ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014
FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES
Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) the number of Food Testing Laboratories functioning in the country at present, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the present number of laboratories are of international standards and capable to meet the industry demand;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the measures taken by the Government to upgrade/modernize these laboratories and also for setting up of new food testing laboratories;
- (d) the funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred thereon during each of the last three years and the current year for this purpose, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the further steps taken/being taken by the Government to set up food testing laboratories equipped with modern equipments in each and every State/UT in order to check the food adulteration in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a) to (c) : There are 137 Food Testing Laboratories under the purview of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for testing food products as per standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules/ Regulation, 2011. State-wise details of these laboratories are at Annexure. Out of these, 61 laboratories are National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) accredited private laboratories authorized by FSSAI. Remaining 76 laboratories are Referral / State / Public Food laboratories. These laboratories are not NABL accredited for all parameters. Laboratories have not received priority by state governments and are thus poorly equipped. The Authority has conducted the baseline assessment for all 72 State/ Public Food Laboratories to find the gaps which can be filled with a final objective of accreditation of all these 72 laboratories.

(d) & (e): Modernization/upgradation of food testing lab is a continuous process. The State Governments sanction funds for their laboratories based on the budgetary provision. An outlay of Rs. 1500 crore has been made in the 12th Five Year Plan for strengthening of the States' Food Regulatory System, including the strengthening of the food testing labs.