

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:596
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
SAFETY OF FOOD ARTICLES
Rao Shri Kavuri Samba Siva

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

- (a) whether any survey/report has been conducted recently on the safety and quality of food articles produced indigenously and also imported and sold in Indian market;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to formulate guidelines to ensure high standards of food safety and quality and a coordinated mechanism to regulate manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import of food articles duly supported with testing labs; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) – A survey was carried out in year 2001-2002 to assess the quality of imported food products being marketed in India by the Central Food Laboratory Mysore, Central Food Laboratory Kolkata and Combined Food and Drugs Laboratory, Govt. of Delhi. However, no survey has been carried out for indigenously produced food articles.

(b)&(c) – The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (34 of 2006) has been enacted by the Parliament to consolidate the laws relating to food and establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

At present there are 72 laboratories of the States and 7 Central Food Laboratories functioning in the country for testing adulteration in food items.