

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2248

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

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

- (a) whether the growth of food processing sector has substantially improved in the country during the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the existing food testing laboratories are adequate to meet the demand in the food processing sector in the country and if so, the details thereof, State and location – wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up more food processing labs in the country including Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the existing standards of food technology in the country is at par with the advanced countries in the food processing sector, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to improve standard of food technology in the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES(SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI)

(a): The growth of food processing sector, in terms of value addition, as per National Accounts Statistics 2014, is as under:

Year    Growth (%)

2010-11	14.9
2011-12	21.6
2012-13	3.0

Source : National Accounts Statistics, 2014

(b): As informed by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, there are 148 Food Testing Laboratories under the purview of FSSAI for testing food products as per standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules/ Regulation, 2011. Out of these 148 laboratories:

# 64 laboratories are NABL accredited private laboratories notified by FSSAI;

# 72 laboratories are State/Public food laboratories functioning under the State/ Union Territory Government;

# 12 laboratories are Referral Laboratories notified by FSSAI for the purpose of referral testing under FSS Act, 2006/ Rules & Regulations, 2011.

State-wise details of above Food Testing Laboratories are given at Annexure-I.

(c): Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) does not set up food testing laboratories on its own. However, MoFPI under the Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and Research & Development and Other Promotional Activities provides financial assistance in the form of Grant-in-aid for Setting up / Up-gradation of Food Testing Laboratories. Under the Scheme, Central/State Government organizations/ Government universities (including deemed universities) and all other implementing agencies/private sector organizations/universities (including deemed universities) are eligible for grant-in-aid as per the prescribed guidelines. The scheme is not State specific. Assistance under the scheme is provided for setting up/ upgradation of food testing labs across the country.

(d): The standards for food products are prescribed in Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 & Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulation, 2011. These Regulations are issued by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. However, information in respect of standards of food technology is not available with FSSAI as it is not related to them.

(e): Does not arise.