

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6318
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
QUALITY OF PROCESSED FOODS
Premachandran Shri N.K.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to introduce modern scientific system for checking the quality of food items produced in the food processing industries, if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government to prevent the manufacturing and marketing of adulterated food from the food processing industries;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to restrict the manufacturing and marketing of food items without exhibiting all contents on the food packets;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to regulate the price of packed processed food items; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

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

(a): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued regulations including the Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 and the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 which prescribe the quality and safety standards for food products. FSSAI has informed that there are 166 Food Testing Laboratories under its purview for testing food products as per standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules / Regulations, 2011. Out of these 166 laboratories, 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; 82 laboratories are NABL accredited private laboratories notified by FSSAI.

Further, FSSAI has also informed that penalty for possessing adulterant has been prescribed in Section 57 of the Food Safety & Standards (FSS) Act, 2006. Regular surveillance, monitoring & sampling of food products is being undertaken by State / UT Governments under FSS Act, 2006. In cases where samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the Act and Rules and Regulations made thereunder, penal action is initiated against the offender.

(b) & (c): FSSAI has informed that Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labeling) Regulations, 2011 have been notified under the FSS Act, 2006. These regulations prescribe the requirement/ contents to be mentioned on the label of food products.

(d) & (e): Regulating the price of packed processed food items is beyond the purview of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.