

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:74

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015

Testing Norms for Imported Food Consignment

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

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

- (a) whether at present each imported food consignment is subjected to lab checks and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to do away with the said practice and switch over to the international norm of random and risk-based inspections and if so, the details and the objectives thereof along with the stipulated time fixed for all departments for testing;
- (c) whether industry has also requested for doing away with 100% physical testing and if so, the response of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether Central Board of Excise and Customs has created a national level customs clearance facilitation committee for any issue that crop up during clearance and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

- a) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) draws samples from each imported food consignment referred to it and sends the same for testing.
- b) A number of steps have been taken by the Government to enhance the ease of doing business. However, the legal permissibility of introducing risk based sampling of imported food under the FSS Act, 2006, is being examined in consultation with the Department of Legal Affairs.
- c) Representations have been received from the industry associations for adopting risk based sampling.
- d) The Central Board of Excise and Customs has set up Customs Clearance Facilitation Committee (CCFC) at every major Customs seaport and airport for ensuring and monitoring expeditious clearance of imported goods and exports.
- e) All efforts are being made by Government to reduce the time taken in clearance of imported food consignments and enhancing ease of doing business.