

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:885

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015

FSSAI and Food Testing Labs

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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) the number of notified Food Testing Laboratories (FTL) operating under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), State/UT-wise;

(b) whether the existing FTLs are of international standards and fully equipped to meet the demands of the industry, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the FSSAI/Government proposes to set up/modernize/upgrade the FTLs and infrastructure including a separate board to ensure better food safety, if so, the details thereof along with the time by which it is likely to be done and the funds allocated for the purpose during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;

(d) whether FSSAI is facing any operational difficulties, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) whether certain cases of delay in custom clearances for the want of FSSAI approval have been reported during the last three years and the current year, if so, the details thereof along with the preventive steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

(a) : The number of such labs are as below :-

(i) Referral laboratories - 12

(ii) State/Public food laboratories - 72

(iii) NABL accredited Private laboratories - 82

Total - 166

State-wise details of these labs are at Annexure.

(b): FSSAI has informed that the Referral Laboratories and the NABL accredited private laboratories are equipped to undertake the tests as per their defined scope and the State labs, with the exception of a few, however, need upgradation.

(c): There is a proposal to upgrade food safety infrastructure, both at the Centre and in the States. The Revised Estimates for FSSAI were Rs.50 crore, 65 crore, and Rs.60 crore for the year 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15, respectively.

(d): The FSSAI is currently facing shortage of adequate trained manpower. To tide over the shortage, the FSSAI has been advised to recruit qualified manpower on contract basis.

(e): While some delays have been reported in clearance of import consignments in some cases, an exercise has been carried out to optimise the timelines for clearance of imported consignments of food.