

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3544

ANSWERED ON:11.08.2015

Food Recall Policy

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

- (a) whether India lacks a comprehensive food recall policy detailing role and responsibilities of all the food business operators such as manufacturers, retailers, importers, suppliers, timeline for recall process and tracking of compliance, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the said policy is common in almost all the countries in the world and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a lack of food recall policy is responsible for recent non-conformity on food safety standards and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated the draft recall policy; and
- (e) if so, the time by which the policy is likely to be instituted in the country?

Answer

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

(a): As per information provided by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Section 28 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 provides for the Food Recall Procedure.

(b): As per the international practices, a food recall is an action taken to remove the food which is unsafe from the entire food supply chain from the manufacturer to the consumer. However, the food recall procedures may vary from country to country.

(c): Lack of food recall policy is not accountable for non-conformity on food safety standards. As a matter of fact, the first responsibility for recall of food has been cast upon the Food Business Operator.

Section 28 (1) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 stipulates that "If a food business operator considers or has reasons to believe that a food which he has processed, manufactured or distributed is not in compliance with this Act, or the rules or regulations, made thereunder, he shall immediately initiate procedures to withdraw the food in question from the market and consumers indicating reasons for its withdrawal and inform the competent authorities thereof."

(d) & (e): As envisaged under Section 28 (4) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 the Food Authority has notified the Draft Food Safety and Standards (Food Recall Procedure) Regulations, 2015 in the Gazette of India on 22/04/2015 and made the same available to the public on 29/05/2015 for inviting comments/ suggestions from the stakeholders before final notification.
