

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2303
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2016
Food Testing Labs
Ram Shri Vishnu Dayal

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 Government and private labs working for the testing of the quality of food items, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the average number of sample of food items per year tested in the said Government labs along with the average time of its test report;
- (c) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the number of such labs for the speedy testing of food items; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a): Presently, there are 168 Food Testing Laboratories for testing food products as per standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act and regulations thereunder, as per following details:-

- (i) 72 State/Public food laboratories functioning under the State/ Union Territory Government;
- (ii) 14 Referral Laboratories notified by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for referral testing; and
- (iii) 82 National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited private laboratories notified by FSSAI.

State-wise details is at annexure.

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(b): The number of samples analysed in Government labs in the preceding 3 years is as under:

Year No. of samples analysed
2012-13 69949
2013-14 72200
2014-15 74010

The food testing laboratories have to adhere to the timeline prescribed in the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006 and Rules thereunder. Under rule 2.4.2.5 of the Food Safety and Standards Rules, 2011, a time limit of 14 days is prescribed for the food analyst to send the report. It is further provided that in case the sample cannot be analysed within 14 days of its receipt, the Food Analyst shall inform the Designated Officer and the Commissioner of Food Safety giving reasons and specifying the time to be taken for analysis. However, in case of imported article of food, under sub-section (5) of section 47 of FSS Act, the notified lab is required to send the report within a period of five days to the authorized officer.

(c) & (d): FSSAI has initiated action to upgrade its food testing laboratories. Upgradation and setting up of State food testing laboratories is the responsibility of State Governments.

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