

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:497  
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2014  
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES  
Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai

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

- (a) whether the Food Processing Industries (FPIs) has witnessed a steady growth in the country in recent years and has the potential to grow further in the coming years and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the existing food testing laboratories are sufficient to meet the growing requirement of the sector and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the existing standards of food technology in FPI are adequate to meet the standards imposed by the European and other developed countries in respect of imported food items from the developing countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.497 FOR ANSWER ON 12TH AUGUST, 2014 REGARDING FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(a): Food Processing Sector forms an important segment of the Indian economy in terms of its contribution to GDP, employment and investment. The sector contributes 9.0 to 10.0 per cent of GDP in Agriculture and Manufacturing sector. During the last 5 years ending 2012-13, FPI sector has been growing at an Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of around 8.6 per cent as compared to 3.8 per cent in Agriculture and 6.6 per cent in Manufacturing.

In a developing economy like India, where growth with equity is a primary policy thrust, the optimum development of the food processing sector will contribute significantly in tackling several developmental concerns such as rural poverty, food security, food inflation, improved nutrition, prevention of wastage of food etc. By serving as a bridge between Agriculture and Manufacturing and by dealing with the basic needs of all Indian citizens-the assured supply of healthy and affordable food at all locations in the country, this sector has the potential to be a major driver in India's growth in the coming years.

(b): A network of food testing labs is required to ensure compliance with food standards. There are 151 Food Testing Laboratories under the purview of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for testing food products as per standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules/ Regulation, 2011. State-wise details of these laboratories are at Annexure.

(c) & (d): The standards for imported food products are prescribed in Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 & Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants Toxins and Residues) Regulation, 2011. Further, FSSAI is in the process of harmonizing the existing Indian Standards with Codex Alimentarius (International Food Standards). Food Safety Standards set up by EU countries, are based on risk assessment and all exporters are mandatorily complying with these standards for export of products which are administered through APEDA. Testing of such products is done in APEDA approved laboratories.