

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:401
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2014
DEVELOPMENT OF AGRO FOOD MARKET
Chaudhary Shri P.P.

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

- (a) whether quality of agro-food is at par with international market;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to open Research Centres for development of agro- food market;
- (d) if so, the names of places identified for opening such Research Centres and the time by which these Centres are likely to be opened; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 and is responsible for implementing the Rules & Regulations made thereunder. The quality standards of various agro-food products are prescribed in the Food Safety and Standards Regulations. The vertical standards for food products are prescribed in Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 & horizontal standards in Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulation, 2011.

FSSAI is in the process of harmonizing the existing Indian standards with Codex and other international best practices.

(b): Does not arise.

(c)to(e): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not propose to open any Research Centres for development of agro-food market; however, Ministry provides financial assistance for promoting Research & Development in the food processing sector under the plan scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and Research & Development and Other Promotional Activities. All Universities, IITs, Central/State Government Institutions, Public Funded organisations, R&D laboratories and CSIR recognised R&D units in private sector are eligible for assistance as per the guidelines of the scheme.

Ministry also has two academic -cum- research institutions viz. National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana and Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT), Thanjavur, Tamilnadu. Both these institutions are mandated to undertake research in various aspects of food processing. Research in food processing is also being undertaken by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and institutions like Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Department of Science and Technology, Defence Food Research Laboratory under Ministry of Defence and various State Universities.