



Dear valued clients, business associates and friends,

It is our extreme pleasure to present before you the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of CLG Newsletter on Food & Nutrition Regulatory Affairs highlighting the panorama of developments and activities that has occurred from January to June this year primarily at the regulatory front of the

Food and Nutrition sector in India.

This period of six months has been particularly eventful with a plethora of activities undertaken by the food regulator-Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) at various levels and across industry verticals. While some of the efforts of the regulator have not been devoid of controversy, it is an attempt of serious leap towards global best practices. The process of reviewing the present food standards (Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 and Rules/Regulations made there under), which are merely a rehash of the now repealed Prevention of Adulteration of Food Act 1954 and harmonization of the same with Codex and other international standards is under way. Specific committees have been formed for this purpose and comments/suggestions /objections have been invited from all stakeholders.

Further, FSSAI has issued a single authoritative set of Product Approval Guidelines in an attempt to streamline the product approval procedure of proprietary food products which far outnumber the standardized products (only 330 products). Industry association bodies have been continuously engaging with the Food Authority to facilitate the shaping up of a simplified product approval process and are in the process of sending further representation for a revision of the guidelines to make them more scientific and practical. Industry is of the view that with a complicated approval process without proper timelines jeopardizes new product innovations and threatens the very continuity of business of numerous Foods Business Operators (FBOs) across the country.

Meanwhile, a number of guidelines/advisories/circulars have been floated with regard to regulatory requirements for import, laboratory testing/sampling, additives, pesticides etc. Further, due to implementation issues, FSSAI has for the third time extended the licensing and registration deadline for FBOs till February next year.

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Meanwhile, there has been significant position setting at the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) also. Several foreign manufacturers operating in India have been distressed with the way BIS has been interpreting its Rules and Regulations and have been forced to approach the Appellate Authority/appropriate Courts. BIS has received decisions directing that in an era of economies of scale and just in time delivery, BIS Rules and Regulations need to align with the reality of modern manufacturing. A couple of decisions of the BIS's appellate authority are a paradigm shift from the dogmatic approach adopted by BIS in this era of technology when more faster, safer and economical manufacturing methods can be adopted.

Further, with a new CEO coming in at FSSAI, a new Director to head the FSSAI Product Approval Division and joining of the new DG at BIS, the industry is looking forward to some renewed energy and industry friendly developments.

We, at CLG actively follow all regulatory/policy/sectoral updates and it is our greatest pleasure to deliver a newsletter giving a bird's eye view of the latest regulatory developments in the food and nutrition space in India.

We hope that you find this Bulletin informative and useful, and we look forward to delivering more insightful information and findings in our next issue

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## REGULATION WATCH

### HARMONIZATION OF NATIONAL FOOD REGULATIONS TO CODEX AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICES



The responsibility to frame science based standards for food products, their safety and to monitor their implementation in India lies with the FSSAI. The work on the

standardization process has evolved over these years. The standards are, essentially, based on scientific data and other factors relevant to the safety of food products for protecting the health of consumers. Several of the food standards have been drawn from provisions of the erstwhile Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 (PFA) which has now been replaced with Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSSA).

Under Section 16(3) (m) of the FSSA, it is the responsibility of FSSAI to promote consistency with the relevant international standards. This would facilitate trade and ensure availability of safe food to the consumers. The standards and other

guidance texts adopted by **Codex Alimentations Commission** are the **relevant international standards and are also the reference point within the framework of WTO**. It is incumbent upon member nations to apply the national treatment clause, meaning thereby, all imported foodstuff will be given a treatment equal to those applicable to the domestic producers, manufacturers and the market. FSSAI has strategized the framework to harmonize with Codex and other international standards and the proposed time frame for adoption of harmonization policies is December 2014.

In order to harmonize with Codex and other international standards, FSSAI is in the process of reviewing the existing FSS standards as well as introduction of new standards by following two approaches:(1)Revision or Formulation of Vertical Standards for different food products or group of food products and (2) Revision or Formulation of Horizontal Standards.

FSSAI, on February 18, 2013, had published a notification inviting interested stakeholders to participate in the effort to harmonize the Indian food standards with Codex and other international best practices and also published four guidance documents (as Annexures) including the strategy paper for harmonization:(1) guidance document on vertical standards (2) guidance on the role of India's food standards development process (3) instructions to nominees and (4) the nomination form.

In a FICCI event Mr. K Chandramouli, Chairperson, FSSAI had remarked "...At present, India imports more food products than it exports. The reason was lack of harmonized food standards in the country, which resulted in rejection of food products exported as they did not conform to international standards. Indians were consuming inferior and low quality food products as there were no standards to adhere to..."

<http://www.ficci.com/pressrelease/1176/ficci-press-release-food-standards.pdf>

### PRODUCT APPROVAL



#### **FSSAI GUIDELINES FOR PRODUCT APPROVAL**

In order to streamline the product approval procedure with due consideration to the safety of food and public health, in supersession of earlier advisories, FSSAI has published its Product Approval Guidelines dated May 11, 2013 for the food products for which the standards are not specified under FSS Act, 2006, Rules & Regulations.

To see the full document, please follow the link below:

[http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/ProductApproval\(17-05-2013\).pdf](http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/ProductApproval(17-05-2013).pdf)

Below are some of our observations-

**1 (a) of Advisory-** *Food products where the safety of its ingredients present are known and are permitted under FSS Regulation, 2011/Codex and other regulatory bodies like EU/FSANZ/USFDA etc. and the food product does not contain plants or botanicals or substances from animal origin will be granted product approval.*

**Our Observations:** (1) Ingredients whose safety is known and permitted under FSSR Codex, EU, FSANZ, USFDA etc. are permissible-this is an improvement from the earlier procedure which made no such provision (2) It does away with the reference to “novel foods”, “functional foods”, “Genetically Modified Foods” and “Foods for Special Dietary Uses”. New procedure excludes plants or botanicals or substances of animal origin. Since all ingredients (other than those processed from minerals) are processed from plants / botanicals or animal sources, in absence of a clear definition of “plants or botanicals or substances from animal origin” the procedure is dependent on the interpretation of any ingredients by the FSSAI.

**1 (b) of Advisory-** *Food products where the safety of its ingredients present are known and are permitted under FSS Regulation, 2011/Codex and other regulatory bodies like EU/FSANZ/USFDA etc. and the food product contain ingredients including plants or botanicals or substances from animal origin shall be considered for Product approval/NOC. Product Approval will be given to all products where safety assessment is completed. NOC will be granted to food products in market where license has been granted under previous Act/Orders.*

**1 (c) of Advisory-** *Food products falling under category 1 (b) above, prima facie where safety of the ingredients is insufficient to make a safety determination would be referred to respective*

*Scientific Panels. Product approval shall be granted/ denied on the basis of risk assessment*

**Our Observations:** (1) Provides for NOC for products in market and granted license under PFA (2) Product approval upon safety assessment (silent about whether this is safety assessment by FSSAI scientific panel only OR assessment by one of the other regulatory authorities is acceptable or not). (3) When read with 1 (c) it appears that safety assessment provided must appear *prima facie* adequate in the assessment by Product Approval Screening Committee (PASC) members (4) in the absence of any guidelines on what is appropriate safety assessment, there exists the risk of PASC making inconsistent decisions or may simply referring the Applications to Scientific Panel(s) which even when there is adequate safety assessment data presented.

**1 (d) of Advisory:** *Products for which the safety of its ingredients and their conditions of use as stated therein and published by FSSAI or products whose ingredients are standardized or permitted under FSSR 2011 will not require further safety assessment except for authorization of the ingredients contained therein*

**Our Observations:** (1) Ingredients standardized under FSSAI are permissible (2) Ingredients whose safety assessment has been already done by FSSAI are permissible (3) Procedure merely requires FSSAI to ratify use of such ingredients in the proprietary food.

The new procedure requires assessment of “new ingredients” in the products - those that are not standardized under FSSAI/not approved earlier by the Authority even if the ingredients are mentioned on the product label. Ingredients as allowed under USFDA, EU, Codex, FSANZ etc. finds no mention. Further, the reference to plants or botanicals or substances of animal origin

may lead to inconsistent interpretation making the process a slow one.

**Para 3 of the Advisory:** *It states that the use of minerals/ vitamins/ proteins/ metals/amino acids/ their compounds should not exceed the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) for Indians. In this regard, FBO shall follow the guidelines issued by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) / National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) / World Health Organisation (WHO) / Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).*

### Our Observations:

While ICMR/ NIN guidelines do not cover all nutrients, the Advisory is very clear that the FBO may add minerals/vitamins/proteins/metals/amino acids/their compounds etc in such limits as is allowed by the guidelines issued by WHO/FAO [Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice]. However, recent industry experience has been that the PASC is simply rejecting applications stating that minerals/ vitamins etc. used in products are above the RDAI as prescribed by ICMR/NIN without taking into account the Codex guidelines.

**No time frame in Advisory:** Another issue of major concern is that the new procedure makes no reference to timelines for FSSAI to provide approval.

**NOW ALL FOOD PRODUCTS NEED TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM GOVERNMENT-PROMOTED FSSAI**

29 JANUARY, 2013

Probiotic ice-cream, digestive biscuits or low-sugar jams may be flying off retail shelves, but food companies are no longer being allowed to sell new products without

taking approvals from the government-promoted FSSAI.

According to a new and modified FSSAI advisory issued to all food companies last month, any new or existing product which is 'proprietary' - in other words not classified in the food act - will need to follow a regulatory 'new product approval' guideline, as laid down by the FSSAI. Even if food companies announce the ingredients on packs and in advertising, they will still need approvals.

According to guidelines, makers of all proprietary products will now have to submit to the central government for approval and can launch only after all the necessary approvals have been obtained.

For example, while cheese and butter are standard products, a low-fat ice-cream or dessert would be classified as proprietary. Another example -- if the existing food laws states that fruit-based jam can be made only with a specific amount of sugar, and if a company chooses to add more or less sugar than what is specified, the product becomes proprietary. Food companies say the move will delay new product development and product innovation, though it will help in filtering out incorrect product claims.

Piruz Khambatta, chairman of beverage concentrate and powder maker Rasna, called it a step backwards. "*Such guidelines did not exist in the past... We welcome regulations but they should be conducive to growth instead of delaying both new product development and innovation - which is so important when the market is so competitive,*" Khambatta said. Till now, proprietary food products could be approved at the state level, but with the new guidelines in place,

companies need to seek approval from the central food authority.

- RS Sodhi, MD of dairy giant Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation, which makes the Amul brand of milk, cheese, butter and ice-cream, said: "It's a good move from the consumer's point of view... when you deal with food products, you have to be very sure of the claims you are making. But it's also true that this may delay new launches."

The move comes at a time when functional foods are growing at a rapid pace. While categories like muesli are growing at 40% a year and are estimated at 100 crore, the 200-crore-plus oats market is growing at about 30%.

FSSAI declined comment on the matter, and an official from the authority said all relevant information had been posted on their website. The FSSAI has also set up an exhaustive set of guidelines for self regulation in all advertising of foods and beverages, along with advertising monitoring agency Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI). The guidelines state that ads of foods and beverages making claims like making children taller, helping people lose weight or curing hair-loss will need to prove their declarations scientifically.

Any eatery operating in India, from restaurant chains such as KFC and McDonald's to restaurants within hotels like Bukhara and Swagath to even school canteens and corporate cafeterias – will need a 'food business operator' licence from

the central food authority, FSSAI, to operate from next month.

The FSSAI plans to randomly check food joints across the country after February 4, 2013 the deadline for obtaining the licences, according to a report by The Economics Times.

If a restaurant is found without the licence, FSSAI can penalise it and even have it shut down.

The move seems to have stirred a hornet's nest in the country's burgeoning Rs 50,000-crore eating-out industry with some operators suggesting that FSSAI needs to make the procedure more user-friendly and move the deadline.

"On paper, the compliance looks easy, but the FSSAI has to make the documentation user-friendly so it's easy for restaurant operators to comply with the guidelines," said Pradeep Sehgal, CEO, Delhi-based Sub-One Hospitality Services, which holds franchisees for restaurant chains such as Nirula's, Moti Mahal and Muffin Break.

Viraj Joshi, Chief Executive, Ravi Jaiupria group-owned Devyani International, which runs over 300 KFC, Pizza Hut, Costa Coffee and south Indian cuisine chain Vango in the country, said, "Though obtaining licences to operate restaurants already exist, the approvals are much more stringent this time."

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-01-29/news/36616285\\_1\\_food-act-food-products-fssai](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-01-29/news/36616285_1_food-act-food-products-fssai)

**LICENCING****FSSAI EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR LICENSING, REGISTRATION TO FEBRUARY 4, 2014,**

FSSAI has extended the licensing and registration deadline for food business operators (FBOs) till February 4, 2014. This is the third time the country's apex food regulator has granted an extension to FBOs. Even after a one-and-a-half-year time frame, which included a six-month extension, FSSAI was able to register only 11 lakh out of the country's 5 crore FBOs and gave licence to only 3 lakh FBOs so far against the target of 50 lakh. Even though FSSAI was not in a mood to extend the deadline, the pressure from industry compelled it to extend the deadline for conversion of registration and licensing for one more year.

All FBOs engaged in selling anything edible - roadside tea stalls, dhabas, fruit and vegetable hawkers, grocery shops, milk vendors, canteens, caterers, restaurants, hotels and food processors are mandated to obtain/convert their licences/registrations by February 4, 2014.

[http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Statutory\\_Advisory%20\(05-02-2013\).pdf](http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Statutory_Advisory%20(05-02-2013).pdf)

**CLARIFICATION**

Recently, the FSSAI issued a clarification on jurisdiction of State/Central Licensing which may be accessed at

[http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/order\(12-06-2013\).pdf](http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/order(12-06-2013).pdf)

**NUTRACEUTICALS/ FUNCTIONAL FOODS/ FOODS FOR SPECIAL DIETARY PURPOSES/ HEALTH SUPPLEMENTS/ NOVEL FOODS**

The FSSAI Scientific Panel for Functional Foods, Nutraceuticals, Dietetic Products and other similar products is yet to firm up the regulations on nutraceuticals, foods for special dietary purposes, functional foods etc. While a draft has been in internal circulation and has been deliberated upon for more than two years now, there is no clarity within FSSAI with regards to the time line as to when the important regulations would be put up for public consultation.

The draft regulation on Nutraceuticals, nutritionals, functional foods, Novel Foods and health food supplements is meant for all special types of foods which are targeted at specific psychological, medical, disease or nutritional needs as also novel foods i.e., foods which contain certain ingredients or processes not used in India before.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES****INCLUSION OF ALCOHOL IN FSS ACT, 2006, NO CLASH WITH EXCISE DEPT: FSSAI- 11 JANUARY, 2013**

Although alcoholic drinks have been included in the FSSA, and all FBOs who sell alcoholic drinks like whisky, beer, rum, and vodka have to apply for licensing and registration, the FSSAI has denied the possibility of any clash of interest with State Excise Departments.

A number of associations and organizations have made representations against licensing and registration for the business of alcoholic drinks. There has been apprehension that due to alcoholic drinks being included in the FSSA, there is duplication of work with the Excise departments of states.

The matter has been examined and it has been clarified that the FSSAI will regulate with the framing of the standards of alcoholic drinks and issues concerned with

the safety aspects of alcoholic drinks only from production to sale.

S N Mohanty, former CEO, FSSAI had opined: *“There will be no clash of interest between Excise department and FSSAI, because our work will be to issue licences to and register the FBOs which deal with the business of standard alcoholic drinks and wines. All FBOs may need to apply for licences and registration to the authorities at the Centre or state/Union Territory as per their capacity turnover.”*

He added, *“The other issues like revenue, trade, etc. will be dealt by the Excise departments of states and Union Territories. So there is clear-cut demarcation of the activities and no conflict in jurisdiction.”*

<http://fssai.co.in/inclusion-of-alcohol-in-fss-act-2006-no-clash-with-excise-dept-fssai/>

#### **AD-HOC GUIDELINES FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES RELATED TO IMPORT FOOD CLEARANCE PROCESS dated JANUARY 23, 2013.**

1. Exemption provided in FSS (Labelling and Packaging) Regulations, 2011 of declaration of best before date of consumption is applicable only in case of wine & liquors & alcoholic beverages containing 10 % or more of alcohol by volume.

The above exemption will not be applicable in case of wines labelled as non- alcoholic or de-alcoholised. Also declaration of veg/non-veg will not be applicable in case of alcoholic drinks.

2. Minor labeling defects in case of alcoholic beverages for import viz name & address of importer is rectifiable defect and is allowed to affix in custom bound warehouse

<http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Ad-hoc.pdf>

#### **IMPORT/EXPORT OF FOOD PRODUCTS**

FSSAI has laid down guidelines related to food import clearance regarding labelling requirements of Wholesale Packages, testing of Proprietary as well as import of Dietary Supplements, clarifications related to laboratory reports and import of flavours for wholesale packages vide its notification dated January 24, 2013.

[http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Advisories\\_Final.pdf](http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Advisories_Final.pdf)

#### **LABORATORY TESTING**

##### **GUIDELINES FOR RECOGNITION OF FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 18, 2013**

These guidelines lay down the general & Technical guidelines for recognition of Food Testing Laboratories and have defined Level 1, Level 2 Food Laboratory and also Referral food laboratory thereby laying down the R& D Capabilities, Training facilities etc for the labs. The Criteria for recognition of these labs includes qualification & duties of food analyst. These guidelines also laid down the procedure for recognition as follows: (1) Application (2) Adequacy Audit (3) Assessment (4) Payment of Fees (5) On site verification assessment and (6) Grant of recognition

The guidelines also talks about Surveillance, Terms & Conditions of Recognition, renewal, expiry, suspension & cancellation of recognition. The guidelines also has kept provisions for complaints

These guidelines may be seen at:

<http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Guidelines%20for%20Recognition%20of%20Food%20testing%20Laboratories.pdf>

### **MANUAL FOR RECOGNITION OF FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES PUBLISHED ON JANUARY 18, 2013**

The manual defines for the purpose of the recognition, the relevant definitions given in FSS Act, 2006 such as adulterant, contaminant, food, food additive, food safety etc.

The manual explains/laid down the following- Types of Labs, Product Categories for food Testing, Functions of Food Lab, Technical Requirement for Lab Personnel, Infrastructure, Equipments and their Calibration, Test Methods and Testing of Samples & Fee Structure

To view the entire manual, refer to the link below:

<http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/manual%20for%20Recognition%20of%20Food%20Testing%20laboratories.pdf>

### **LABELLING/CLAIMS**

#### **REGULATION ON LABELLING (CLAIMS)**

A new draft for amendment has been published by FSSAI on "Regulations on Labeling (claims)" FSSAI in consultation with ICMR and DBT has prepared this set of labelling and claims regulations that companies must comply with before publicizing the perceived benefits of their edible products (earlier guidelines only require the company to guarantee that the product is safe for consumption). The new regulations covers the entire range of health foods, such as health drinks, packaged food products as well as Foods for Special

Dietary Uses (FSDU), nutraceuticals (mainly dietary supplements) etc.

A FSSAI Sub-Group consisting of Dr. B. Sesikaran, Director, National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and Chairman of Panel for Labelling and Claims/Advertisements, Dr. D.P. Attrey, and, Dr. Pradeep Chaudhary, both members of the said Panel were actively involved in the process of preparation of these regulations.

FSSAI is currently in the process of examining the draft regulations in light of the comments received from various stakeholders.

<http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/covering%20letter%20for%20draft%20regulation.pdf>

#### **OUR INSIGHT ON LABELLING/CLAIMS REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE RELEVANT INDIAN LAWS FOR IMPORTED FOOD PRODUCTS**

With regards to requirements of labelling for imported food products, the following laws and regulations apply:

1. The Legal Metrology Act, 2009 (LMA) and the Rules made there under came into effect from April 01, 2011
2. The Food Safety and Standards Act 2006 (FSSA) and Rules/Regulations there under

#### **LMA and the Rules**

As per Section 18 of the LMA, it is illegal to manufacture, pack, sell, import, distribute, deliver, offer, expose or possess for sale any pre-packaged commodity unless the package is in prescribed standard quantities or number and bears thereon declarations and particulars. Further, any advertisement mentioning the retail sale price of a pre-

packaged commodity must contain a declaration as to the net quantity or number of the commodity contained in the package. Section 18 reads as follows:

*"...18. Declarations on pre-packaged commodities- (1) No person shall manufacture, pack, sell, import, distribute, deliver, offer, expose or possess for sale any pre-packaged commodity unless such package is in such standard quantities or number and bears thereon such declarations and particulars in such manner as may be prescribed.*

*(2) Any advertisement mentioning the retail sale price of a pre-packaged commodity shall contain a declaration as to the net quantity or number of the commodity contained in the package in such form and manner as may be prescribed..."*

Section 36 of LMA provides that manufacturing, packaging, importing, selling, distributing, delivering or otherwise transferring, offering, exposing or possessing for sale any pre packaged commodity which does not conform to the declarations on the package as provided under the Act is punishable with fine or fine and imprisonment.

Relevant portion of Section 36 is extracted below:

*"...36. (1) Whoever manufactures, packs, imports, sells, distributes, delivers or otherwise transfers, offers, exposes or possesses for sale, or causes to be sold, distributed, delivered or otherwise transferred, offered, exposed for sale any pre-packaged commodity which does not conform to the declarations on the package as provided in this Act, shall be punished with fine which may extend to twenty-five thousand rupees, for the second offence, with fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees and for the subsequent offence, with fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees but which may extend to one lakh rupees or with imprisonment*

*for a term which may extend to one year or with both..."*

Pre-packaged commodity has been defined under Section 2(l) of the LMA as a commodity which without the purchaser being present is placed in a package of whatever nature, whether sealed or not, so that the product contained therein has a pre-determined quantity.

Rule 18 (1) of the Rules provide as follows:

*"...No wholesale dealer or retail dealer or importer shall sell, distribute, deliver, display or store for sale any commodity in the packaged form unless the package complies with in all respects, the provisions of the Act and these rules."*

Rules 4 and 6 of the Rules lays down that Pre-packed Commodity for sale, distribution or delivery must bear thereon or on a label securely affixed thereto, specific declarations as provided for under the Rules.

Rule 6(5) further provides that where a commodity consists of a number of components and these components are packed in two or more units, for sale as a single commodity, the declaration required to be made shall appear on the main package and such package shall also carry information about the other accompanying packages or such declaration may be given on individual packages and intimation to that effect may be given on the main package and if the components are sold as spare parts, all declarations shall be given on each package.

The Rules also does not permit to affixing of individual stickers /labels on the package for altering or making mandatory declarations. However, for reducing the

Maximum Retail Price (MRP), a sticker with the revised lower MRP (inclusive of all taxes) may be affixed and the same should not cover the MRP declaration made by the manufacturer or the packer as the case may be, on the label of the package.

In respect of packages containing food articles, Rule 6 provides that declarations as required under the provisions of FSSA and Rules/Regulations there under including the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and labelling) Regulations, 2011 shall apply.

#### FSSA and Rules/Regulations made there under

Regulation 2.2 of the Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and labelling) Regulations, 2011 deals with labelling.

While Regulation 2.2.1 lays down the general requirements of labelling (similar to the Legal Metrology Requirements but much more detailed), Regulation 2.2.2 lays down the requirements of Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods, 2.3 provides the Manner of declaration(2.3.1: General Conditions; 2.3.2 Principal Display Panel; 2.3.3 The height of numeral in the declaration and 2.4 lays down the Specific Requirements/Restrictions on manner of labelling including those for labelling of infant milk substitute and infant food(2.4.1).

With regard to imported products, FSSAI guidelines related to Food Import Clearance Process dated 23rd March, 2012 provided that till the time the draft Import regulations are firmed up, packages of food consignments that are being imported in India should carry the labelling information as enlisted below:

For Pre-packaged food or pre-packed food including multi piece package

1. Name of food
2. List of ingredients (in descending order)
3. Nutritional information
4. Name and complete address of the manufacturer
5. Net quantity
6. Lot/code/batch number
7. Date of manufacture
8. Best before or use by date or date of expiry
9. Information on vegetarian or non vegetarian logo
10. Name and address of the importer

The guidelines provided that in case of wholesale packages, information on vegetarian/non vegetarian logo, name/address of the importer which are mandatory labelling requirements under FSS (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011 are considered as rectifiable labelling deficiencies since these are not commonly practiced globally. Such information, if missing on the imported food consignments in wholesale packages, can be affixed by the importer/CHA upon arrival of the consignment on Indian shores, however, strictly in the custom bonded warehouses.

Guidelines dated January 24, 2013 provided that in case of wholesale packages, if the labels attached by the manufacturer in the wholesale container are from the country of origin, the same may be acceptable if they are in accordance with the FSSA and Rules/Regulations made there under. However, tampering of label and pasting of

label on over the other is not permissible. Also, in case of wholesale packages, it is permissible to provide either the best before or the expiry of the use by date. In case both best before and the expiry date are given both should be distinct.

### AMENDMENT OF THE FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS (FSS) REGULATIONS

The FSSAI is currently actively in the process of amending its various Regulations.

Comments/ suggestions/objections have been invited from all interested persons/ stakeholders to amend-

(1) FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011" which specifies the standards of Caffeinated Beverages and allowing blue tint in plastic (PET) containers over 5 litres for packing of packaged drinking water, etc vide Notification F. No. 5/15015/30/2011, dated 18th April, 2013.

(2) FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011" vide Notification F.No.1-84/ SP(Notification)/ FSSAI dated 5.4.2013 allowing the use of Methyl Cellulose upto 3% in salad dressing/ mayonnaise and Carboxy methyl cellulose in dressings and sauces.

The following regulations are under the process of consideration/finalization by the FSSAI for amendment after having received suggestions/ objections-

(1)FSS (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011" vide Notification F.No.1-12/Sci Panel/ Notification/ FSSAI/2012 dated 29.11.12 fixing the limit of antibiotics in honey.

(2) FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011" vide Notification F.No. 5/15015/30/2012 dated 22.11.2012 regarding revision of Olive Oil[Olive Oil, Virgin Olive Oils(refined olive oil, Extra virgin olive oil, ordinary virgin olive oil) and Olive-Pomace Oil).

The regulations which have been have been recently finalized by FSSAI are:

(1)FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011" which specifies the limit of Trans Fats as 10% (Max.) in hydrogenated vegetable oils, bakery & shortening, margarine and fat spreads vide Notification F.No. P15014/1/2011-PFA/FSSAI dated 29.11.12

(2)FSS (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011" vide Notification F.No.P15014/1/2011 dated 29.11.12 labelling of edible vegetable oils, fats including hydrogenated vegetable oils, processed and packed foods indicating total trans fats contents and total saturated fat content percent by weight on the label

### OTHER RECENT ADVISORIES/ CLARIFICATIONS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS BY FSSAI

(1) Statutory Advisory on use of glazing agents Shellac, Beeswax (white and yellow), gum arabic and pectin in chocolates at GMP level.

[http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Advisory\(28-06-2013\).pdf](http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Advisory(28-06-2013).pdf)

(2) Statutory Advisory on ban on import of dairy products from China.  
[http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Advisory\(11-06-2013\).pdf](http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/Advisory(11-06-2013).pdf)

(3)Advisory on Cassia and Cinnamon

[http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/CASSIA\(20-05-2013\).pdf](http://www.fssai.gov.in/Portals/0/Pdf/CASSIA(20-05-2013).pdf)

## BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS

### **BIS AMENDMENT BILL**

The new Bureau of Indian Standards (Amendment) Bill, 2012 amends the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 (BIS Act). The BIS Act establishes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for the harmonisation of standards, marking and quality certification of goods. The Bill seeks to establish BIS as the national standards body and to include the articles, processes and services in addition to goods for the purpose of marking and quality certification.

The Bill proposes to use a self declaration of conformity with the Indian Standards on the basis of registration with BIS. The proposal, if implemented, may encourage usage of BIS mark which in turn will give additional confidence to the consumer about the quality of product. Also, the powers of the BIS have been expanded to recognise the mark of any international body related to any article or process at par with the Standard Mark, with the prior approval of the central government.

The BIS Act requires articles or processes of a scheduled industry specified in the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 to conform to the Indian Standard. The Bill seeks to empower the central government to notify any article or process of any industry to conform to the Indian Standard and direct that the use of the Standard Mark under a licence shall be

compulsory. The Bill de-links the principal Act from the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 and widens the scope the principal Act to cover any industry under its ambit.

### **INFANT FOOD**

Recently a hotly debated issue was with regard to the usage of 'raw milk' v/s 'milk powder' as a raw material for manufacturing Infant Milk Food and Infant Formula as per the applicable Indian Standards [IS 14433:2007 (Infant Milk Substitutes - Specification)] which states that for the manufacture of such products, material by "spray drying" of "milk" can be used. This is merely an issue of interpretation of the standards. While certain industry players are of the view that usage of raw milk is safer to use as a raw material, both national industry associations and international stakeholders are of the opinion that "spray drying" of the powdered form of "milk" is the global practice. Mandating the use of "raw milk" would be a regressive step. Further, both international and national regulations do not prohibit the use of milk powder and are strictly framed so as to avoid any kind of safety concern. In fact, almost 40% of the domestic manufacturers and 100% of the foreign manufacturers are using milk powder as a raw material to manufacture Infant Milk Food and Infant Formula.

While it is the FSSAI which is the primary food regulatory body, this issue was recently deliberated upon by the Food and Agriculture Division (FAD) 19 Committee of the Bureau of Indian Standards. The Committee, after discussion with all the stakeholders, has now chosen to seek clarification from FSSAI on the issue. *Status quo* shall be maintained till clarifications are received from FSSAI.

## STREET FOOD

'Indian Standard' on Street Food Vendors – Food Safety Requirements (IS 16066:2012) has been released on December 12, 2012.

## DRINKING WATER



### FSSAI TESTING PACKAGED WATER SAMPLES AND PREPARING DATABASE OF QUALITY

JUNE 17, 2013

The FSSAI – the country's apex food regulator – has commenced the testing of samples of packaged drinking water from different sources across India for various microbiological and chemical components. It is also working on the preparation of a database of the quality of packaged drinking water.

The Authority has taken these steps following a letter by health minister Ghulam Nabi Azad urging it to ensure checking of units manufacturing packaged drinking water. The minister apprised the body of a spate of complaints about the quality of packaged drinking water being supplied to consumers in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).

A senior FSSAI official said, “We have directed the food safety commissioners to test the quality of packaged drinking water and make the results available to us. The work has already begun. It is expected to

take a while to complete. Only then we will comment on the issue.”

“FSSAI, however, will prepare the database upon the completion of the tests. The authority has also decided that the state food safety officers should conduct sampling of the packaged water at regular intervals. However, the duration of the sample collection will be set only after the results of the first phase of sampling are declared,” he added.

He further informed that the FSSAI had hired a legal firm to deal with the legal cases that come to the fore while implementing the regulations, and added that as far as the number of cases filed was concerned, no data was currently available.

“The Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006, have a provision to set up tribunals for cases related to food safety and the process has, in fact, begun in the states. Currently the cases are filed in regular courts, but once the tribunals are set up, the hearings will take place in the tribunals,” he stated.

<http://www.fnbnews.com/article/detnews.asp?articleid=33855&sectionid=1>

## BIOTECHNOLOGY

### BRAI BILL SENT TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE & TECH FOR SUGGESTIONS



MAY 22, 2013

The Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) Bill, which was tabled in the Budget Session of Parliament by Jaipal Reddy, minister of science and technology, has been sent to the standing committee on science and technology, environment and forests for a review and recommendations.

The introduction of the contentious Bill saw strong opposition from Members of Parliament (MPs) from more than ten political parties and a host of civil society organisations and individuals, including members of the National Advisory Council like Aruna Roy.

The BRAI Bill, though listed for introduction in 2011, had been in a limbo for the last three years, owing to concerns both inside and outside Parliament about it becoming a single-window clearance mechanism which will lower the bar for open releases of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) into the environment.

There is growing scientific evidence on the negative impacts of GMOs, including GM crops, on human health, environment and farm livelihoods. Due to the controversial nature of the Bill and its flawed mandate, several MPs demanded that it be referred to a joint committee of both the Houses, so that a comprehensive debate on it could occur.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture, in a report on GM crops, had strongly recommended that the government introduce a regulatory system with the primary mandate to safeguard bio-safety from the negative impacts of GM crops instead of proposals like BRAI.

Greenpeace India urged the members of the

Parliamentary standing committee on science and technology and environment to uphold the interests of our citizens and recommend the withdrawal of the BRAI Bill.

They stressed on the need for a bio-safety protection legislation to safeguard the health of India's citizens, the country's biodiversity and farm livelihoods against risky technologies like GM crops. This is also in line with India's commitment to international agreements like the Cartagena protocol on bio-safety.

<http://www.fnbnews.com/article/detnew.asp?articleid=33729&sectionid=23>

## FSSAI CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

### AUTHORITY MEETING

While the Food Safety and Standards Authority Business Transaction Regulations, 2010 mandates meeting of the Authority thrice a year and the interval between any two meetings shall not in any case be longer than five(5)months, no meeting has been conducted in this year till date. In fact the last meeting was held in September last year.

### MEETING OF CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)

The 9th meeting of the CAC was held on May 10, 2013. The following issues were deliberated upon in the meeting: Progress of the States/ UTs regarding implementation of FSS Act, 2006; Enforcement of central licenses in States (utilization of State DOs, FSOs for enforcement pertaining to central licenses);

Involvement of Panchayats, Municipalities & NGOs in the implementation of FSS Act, 2006; 12th Plan proposal and FSSAI strategy on upgradation of public/ State laboratories; Governance structure for enforcement activities for roll out of FSS act including licensing/ registration in States; Pending Court Cases filed under the PFA Act, 1954; Training Activities in States; Awareness generation among different categories of stakeholders

The following were the main recommendations of CAC (a) It was suggested that Chief Secretary of the States should be written a letter regarding the absence of their States in the CAC meeting (b) Uniform training to be imparted to all the FSOs and DOs in next 8 months. A calendar for this to be developed by FSSAI (c)A panel from FSSAI to be formed to assist State laboratories in getting NABL accreditation to upgrade their laboratories(d)Training to be planned for all food analysts regarding finalizing the SOPs for analysis of food samples(e)Uploading of manually issued license is also very important task and should not be neglected and each State should work on this issue (f)States need to be responsible for the entire enforcement of the Act including those of the FBOs under central license as well (g)Booklets were being drawn up for better understanding of the FSS Act.(h)There needed to be uniformity in the organizational structure of all the States and separate posts need to be created for appointments.(i) In the 12th five year plan the funds are allocated for setting up of food safety infrastructure in States and upgradation of labs. States would be

provided funds for basic infrastructure, training, surveillance and e-governance (j) Setting up new laboratories, one new laboratory will be established in every 20 districts(k)Pending Court Cases filed under the erstwhile PFA Act, 1954 to be sorted out at the earliest.

### SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

### COMMITTEE/PANEL

As per the FSSAI (Procedure of Scientific Committee and Scientific Panel Regulations), 2010, a schedule of the meetings of the Scientific Committee and the Panels shall be prepared for each calendar year and published on the FSSAI website. However, so such schedule had been published by the Food Authority till date. The Industry is left to keep struggling with the Authority for hastening the conduct of meetings so that decisions impacting them may be taken expeditiously.

Since the second half of last year, industry had been anxiously waiting for the Scientific Committee of the FSSAI to meet as a number of important decisions are pending finalization. It is only in June 26, 2013 that the Committee met. The minutes of the meeting are still being firmed up.

There is no certainty of the schedule of meetings of the nine (9) Scientific Panels as well. Even when they meet, the conduct of the meetings is confidential. Hence, it is only after the minutes are approved/adopted by the Authority (which takes considerable amount of time), that an interested party is able to know the decisions taken.

## FSSAI LIKELY TO REVAMP SYSTEM OF 8 SUB-PANELS TO ENSURE BETTER WORKING

MARCH 19, 2013

The current system of having eight sub-panels such as for functional foods and nutraceuticals, working on drafting of regulations under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSA), 2006, is likely to be revamped, either in the form of sub-panels taking additional roles in related areas or the apex food regulator adding new categories of panels.

However, in this regard, no notification has been issued by the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Also, as per a regulatory affairs veteran, "No time-frame has been set for this process."

Meanwhile, FSSAI chairman K Chandramouli, speaking at a conference in Mumbai, had stated that there had been difficulties in putting together a set of science-based standards for food articles, owing to the country's diverse food culture. And, hence, it had become imperative to change the present format of sub-panels.

A member of FSSAI's scientific committee (which comprises the chiefs of the eight scientific sub-panels), confirmed that such a change was in the offing but declined to reveal further details while raising doubts over continuance of his membership in the future.

<http://www.fnbnews.com/article/detnews.asp?articleid=33415&sectionid=1>

## PARLIAMENT WATCH



**Question:** FSSAI's norms for cleanliness at food outlets (**Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question, May 07, 2013**)

(a) Whether Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have prepared any norms on hygiene and cleanliness at food outlets across the country; and (b) if so, the details of these norms and the mechanism prepared for strict compliance of these norms by all concerned?

**Answer:** The minister of state in the ministry of health and family welfare Shri Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury has given the following answer

- Schedule 4 of the FSS (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulation, 2011 prescribes the general hygienic and sanitary requirements to be followed by Food Business Operators.
- All Food Business Operators (FBOs) in the Country should get a Central/ State licensing depending upon installed capacity and Registration in case of petty food businesses.
- The FBO shall comply with safety, sanitary and hygienic requirements provided in the schedule and contained under different parts depending on nature of business.

- The implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act/Rule/Regulation rests with State Government/ Union Territories. The food safety inspection of these license/ registration establishments is required to be carried out at least once in a year.

**Question: Adulteration of food items (Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question, April 30, 2013)**

(a) The scenario regarding adulteration in various food items, fruits, vegetables, milk, sweets etc. as detected by the Food Safety Officers of State/UT Governments since 2008 till date; (b) The cases registered, prosecuted and convicted annually during the said period; and (c) Whether adulteration/contamination is getting worse with each passing year?

**Answer:** The minister of state in the ministry of health and family welfare Shri Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury has given the following answer:

(a) & (b) The action taken by State/UT Governments since 2008 till now regarding number of samples analysed, found to be adulterated, cases registered /challaned and convicted for adulteration in food products is as per the details mentioned below.

Year	No. of samples examined	No. of samples found adulterated/mis-branded	No. of Prosecution launched/cases Registered	No. of Convictions
2008/2009	94470	8304	6506	1034
2009/2010	113969	12692	11061	1942
2010/2011	117061	14806	9258	1897
2011/2012	64593	8247	6845	764
2012/2013	29328	5180	3755	1100

(c) Does not arise.

**Question: New Guideline issued by FSSAI (Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question dated April 30, 2013)**

(a) Whether the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently issued new guidelines to all the food manufacturing companies of India, relating to sale of new or enlisting proprietary food products; (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; (c) Whether Government has consulted the food industry before issuing such guidelines; and (d) If so, the reaction of the food industry and other stake-holders in this regard?

**Answer:** The minister of health and family welfare Shri Gulam Nabi Azad has given the following answer

(a) to (d) : Yes, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a new advisory on 11th December, 2012 relating to sale of new or existing proprietary food

products. As per Section- 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSSA), “no person shall manufacture, distribute, sell or import any novel food, genetically modified articles of food, irradiated food, organic food, foods for special dietary uses, functional foods, nutraceuticals, health supplements, proprietary foods and such other articles of food which the Central Government may notify in this behalf”. As on date, there is no standard for these food items in India. Hence, new advisory has been issued in this regard. This advisory has been drafted after detailed consultations.

**Question: Foreign Direct Investment in Food Processing Industries (Lok Sabha, Unstarred, April 30, 2013)**

(a) Whether inflow of foreign direct investment in food processing industries has doubled during the year 2013; (b) If so, the details thereof along with the comparative data for the last three years; (c) The extent to which it is beneficial to the sector; and (d) The action taken by the Government for improvement in indigenous production methods by adopting ultramodern technology and up gradation of managerial skill?

**Answer:** Minister of state for food processing industries Dr. Charan Das Mahant has answered the following:

(a) No

(b) Inflow of Foreign Direct Investment Statement for the last 3 years including 2012-13 (April to February) are as follows:

Sl. No.	Year (Apr-Mar)	FDI (Rs. Crore)	FDI (US\$ million)
1	2010-11	5,796.22	1,271.77
2	2011-12	7,677.74	1,652.38
3	2012-13(Apr to Feb)	2887.03	529.09

(c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) complements and supplements domestic investment. FDI brings in, apart from capital, state-of-art technology and best managerial practices, thereby providing better access to foreign technology by the domestic food processing industry.

(d) The Government is implementing the Schemes of Infrastructure Development (with components i.e. Mega Food Parks; Integrated Cold Chain Projects and Abattoirs) Quality Assurance, Codex Standard, R&D and other Promotional activities; Human Resource Development; National Mission on Food Processing and Strengthening of Institutions for promotion and development of Food Processing Sector in the country. Government has also set up National Institute for Food Technology Entrepreneurship & Management to offer high quality educational research and management programme specific to the food industry, provide referral advice on food standards, disseminate knowledge on the food sector and provide business incubation facility.

**Question: FSSAI authorities (Lok Sabha, Unstarred, April 26, 2013)**

(a) The names of the members of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI); (b) Whether there is any panel of experts to provide special assistance to FSSAI; and (c) If so, the names of those experts and their specialization?

**Answer:** The minister of health and family welfare Shri Gulam Nabi Azad has given the following answer

(a) Available on FSSAI website

(b) & (c): FSSAI is assisted in its scientific work by a scientific committee and nine scientific panels. The details of the Scientific Committee are at annexure-II. The details of the nine scientific panels are in the website of FSSAI ([www.fssai.gov.in/ Medical Center/Scientific Panels, aspx](http://www.fssai.gov.in/MedicalCenter/ScientificPanels.aspx)).

**Question:** Adulteration of milk products (Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question, April 23, 2013)

(a) Whether it is a fact that adulteration of milk is happening in the country unabatedly; and (b) If so, the steps taken by Government to curb the adulteration activity?

**Answer:** The minister of state in the ministry of health and family welfare Shri Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury has given the following answer

(a) Cases of adulteration of milk and milk products in the country have come to the notice of Government from time to time. A National survey on milk was conducted. The samples collected were analysed to address this issue. The survey which was restricted to limited samples, showed that a large number of them did not conform to the notified standards. But they were not found to be unsafe.

(b) To curb the menace of food adulteration, regular surveillance, monitoring and sampling of food products are undertaken by State/UT Governments under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India issues advisories from time to time to State/UT

Governments to check the adulteration in food products.

**Question:** Ban on gutka and pan masala (Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question, April 23, 2013)

(a) Whether it is a fact that Government has banned the sale of gutka/pan masala throughout the country;(b) If so, whether it has been proclaimed fully;(c) If not, the steps taken by Government to proclaim this more forcefully;(d) Whether any measures have been taken to shut down the related factories also; and (e) If not, the reasons therefore?

**Answer:** The minister of health and family welfare Shri Gulam Nabi Azad has given the following answer

(a) to (c): Yes, the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 dated 1st August 2011, issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, prohibit the use of tobacco and nicotine as ingredients in any food products. The said Regulation 2.3.4 lays down as under:

“Product not to contain any substance which may be injurious to health: Tobacco and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food products”.

(d)Ministry of Health and family Welfare has sent advisories to all the states and / Union Territories for passing necessary orders in view of the above Regulation. Currently 28 states and / Union Territories have issued orders for implementation of the Food Safety Regulations banning manufacture, sale and storage of Gutka and Pan Masala containing tobacco or nicotine. (Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Chandigarh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar

Pradesh, Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar, Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, J&K and Assam)

(e): Does not arise.

**Question:** Sale of synthetic milk (**Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question, March 12, 2013**)

(a) Whether Government is aware that more than 68 per cent milk samples in the country is not as per the standards laid down by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI); (b) Whether it is also a fact that urea, detergents, refined oil, caustic soda and white paint etc. are used in making synthetic and adulterated milk and milk products; (c) Whether it is also a fact that synthetic and adulterated milk is hazardous for the health of children; and (d) if so, steps taken by Government to curb it?

**Answer:** The minister of state in the ministry of health and family welfare Shri Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury has given the following answer

(a): In the National Survey on Milk Adulteration 2011 (snap shot survey) conducted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to ascertain the quality of milk and to identify different types of adulteration in the liquid milk throughout the country, 68.4% samples were found to be non-conforming to Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011.

(b): The survey also indicated the presence of detergent in some cases. Major reasons for non-conformities to the prescribed Standards included addition of water in milk, deviation on account of Fat and Solid Non Fat, and presence of skim milk powder and glucose.

(c): Yes

(d): The implementation of Food Safety Standards Act and Rules & Regulations made thereunder primarily rests with State/UTs Government. The Commissioners of Food Safety in States / Union Territories are empowered to take remedial measures under Food Safety & Standards Act and Rules & Regulations made thereunder. FSSAI has already issued advisory to Food Safety Commissioners of States/ UTs to maintain standards of milk. The Commissioners of Food Safety in States and Union Territories have also been advised to take appropriate measures under the Food Safety Standards Act and Rules & Regulations made thereunder. Further, random samples of various food samples including milk are drawn regularly by State/U.T Governments and action is taken against the offenders, in case samples are found to be not conforming to the provisions of the FSS Act and Regulations made thereunder.

**Question:** Setting up of FSSAI accredited testing centers (**Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question, March 12, 2013**)

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has decided to provide 70 per cent of the 4,500 crore cleared by Government to develop infrastructure facilities; (b) if so, the details thereof; (c) whether it is also a fact that Government is considering to set up at least one FSSAI accredited testing laboratory covering five to six districts; and (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer:** The minister of state in the ministry of health and family welfare Shri Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury has given the following answer

(a) & (b): An outlay of Rs. 2350 crore has been made for strengthening food

regulatory mechanisms during the 12th Five Year Plan Period. Out of this, Rs.850 crore has been provided under Central Sector Scheme for the FSSAI and Rs. 1500 crore under Centrally Sponsored Programme for the States. The funds under the Centrally Sponsored programme, are for strengthening of State Food Testing Laboratories, Food Safety Infrastructure, E-Governance and Food Safety Surveillance and Capacity Building, at the State level.

(c) & (d): The outlay under the Centrally Sponsored Programme during the 12th Five Year Plan Period, is meant for strengthening the state food regulatory systems including the setting up of new food testing laboratories, and strengthening the existing laboratories.

**Question: Use of banned chemicals for ripening fruits (Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question dated March 05, 13)**

(a) Whether it is a fact that the use of harmful chemicals to ripen fruits is totally banned under food adulteration laws; (b) Whether it is also a fact that this is not being complied with and harmful chemicals like Carbide, Ethylene and Ethicon solutions are being used to ripen fruits; (c) The details of effects these chemicals on people's health; and (d) The steps being taken by Government to put a blanket ban on the use of such chemicals?

**Answer:** The minister of state in the ministry of health and family welfare Shri Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury has given the following answer

(a) Clause 2.3.5 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011, prohibits sale of fruits which have been artificially ripened by use of acetylene gas commonly known as carbide gas produced from Calcium Carbide. There is no provision of use of

ripening hormones under the Food Safety and Standards Act/ Rules/ Regulations. However, the Ministry of Agriculture has recommended the use of ethylene gas in low concentration exogenously to trigger ripening of fruits.

(b) There are certain reports suggesting the use of the chemicals like calcium carbide, ethylene and ethion for the use of early ripening of fruits. However, no scientific validated published information is available on the same.

(c) Following the reports of use of the artificial coloring/ ripening agents in vegetables/ fruits, a Joint Committee for Research on Food Safety, was formulated in August, 2010 under Co-Chairmanship of the Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Director General, Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) to address the various issues relating to the safety of using ripening and coloring agents, and any other relevant issues in nutrition & food safety which emerge from time to time. The Committee has recommended further research studies to generate information/ data regarding the extent of use and effect of artificial ripening agents and other chemicals in fruits and vegetables.

(d) Implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act/ Rules/ Regulations rests with State/U.T. Governments. The Commissioners Food Safety/ Food (Health) Authority of States/ UTs who are responsible for implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and its Rules/ Regulations in their States/ UTs, have been requested from time to time to keep a strict vigil on use of carbide gas and other hazardous chemicals for ripening of fruits and to take legal action for violation of the above provision of the Act/ Regulations. The State Governments have also been advised to educate the public

through print and electronic media against consumption of such artificially ripened fruits and vegetables. State Governments have taken measures in this regard, such as ordering the Food Safety Officer (FSOs)/ Designated Officers (DOs) to keep watch on fruit markets, inspection of fruit market, fruit stalls/ godowns, taking samples of fruits, vegetables & milk, educating fruit vendors to refrain from using these chemicals, etc.

**Question: Food Testing Laboratories (Lok Sabha, Unstarred Question, February 22, 2013)**

(a) the number of Food Testing Laboratories (FTLs) set up in the country, State/UT-wise; (b) whether these laboratories meet the international standards and the demand of the industry; (c) if not, the measures taken by the Government to upgrade these laboratories; (d) the details of laboratories likely to be upgraded/modernized in each State, State/ UT-wise; and (e) the total funds sanctioned and expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years till date?

**Answer:** The minister of health and family welfare Shri Gulam Nabi Azad has given the following answer

(a) to (e) There are 140 Food Testing Laboratories in the country for testing food as per standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Authority Act, 2006 and Rules/ Regulations made thereunder. Out of these 68 laboratories have National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (NABL) accreditation. State Governments have set up 72 food testing laboratories. These laboratories are equipped to check the quality of food articles as per standards prescribed under the FSS

Rules/Regulations for various parameters. State-wise details are given in the annexure. Besides, there are four Referral Food Laboratories under the Act, which work as appellate laboratories for the purpose of analysis of appeal samples of food lifted by the Food Safety Officers of the States/ UTs. and local bodies and the imported food samples.

The two laboratories viz.

(i) Food Research and Standardization Laboratory, Ghaziabad and

(ii) Referral Food Laboratory, Calcutta are under the administrative control of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the other two viz. Central Food Laboratory (CFL), Pune and Referral Food Laboratory (RFL), CFTRI, Mysore are under the administrative control of the Government of Maharashtra and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Govt. of India respectively.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) commissioned a gap analysis study for up gradation of 50 food laboratories under the Central and State Governments. The study has indicated that there is an urgent need to upgrade the infrastructure, strengthen staffing & training inputs and put in place more reliable laboratory management and operational procedures. Gap analysis reports of these laboratories have been sent to the States/UTs concerned. Modernization/upgradation of food testing lab is a continuous process. The State Governments sanction funds for their

laboratories based on the budgetary provision. Details of the grant-in-aid granted by FSSAI to CFL, Pune and RFL, CFTRI, Mysore and the expenditure incurred are as under: -

Financial Year	RFL, Mysore (fund sanctioned)	Expenditure incurred (based on the utilization certificate)	RFL, Pune (fund sanctioned)	Expenditure incurred (based on the utilization certificate)
2009-10	50 lakhs	50 lakhs	40 lakhs	40 lakhs
2010-11	50 lakhs	50 lakhs	40 lakhs	40 lakhs
2011-12	40 lakhs	40 lakhs	40 lakhs	40 lakhs
Total	1.4 crore	1.4 crore	1.2 crore	1.2 crore

**Question: Labeling & Packaging (Rajya Sabha, Starred question)**

(a) whether there is any proposal to standardise the packaging of food items including baby food, mineral water and biscuits; (b) if so, the details thereof; (c) the time by when, final decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and (d) the steps taken by Government to check the sale of spurious, adulterated and inferior quality of food items in the country

**Answer:** The minister of health and family welfare Shri Gulam Nabi Azad has given the following answer

(a) To (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha, Starred question for 19.03.2013

(a) to (c): The Government has amended the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, specifying 19 commodities which are to be packed in specified quantities only. These 19 commodities include baby food, mineral water and drinking water and biscuits. The said amendment has come into force with effect from 01.11.2012.

(d) To curb the menace of food adulteration, regular surveillance, monitoring & sampling of food products are undertaken by State/UT Governments under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules & Regulations made thereunder. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issues advisories also from time to time to State/UT Governments to check the adulteration in food products. FSSAI also conducts awareness workshops / training programmes on Food Safety, involving Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Public Health Department of State Government who have experience and presence in the field. A national Food Safety Helpline (1800 11 21 00) has also been started for having direct interface/communication linkages with all the stakeholders in the food chain including the regulators, other government agencies, manufacturing associations, municipal bodies, NGOs, consumers, etc.

**Question: Salt (Lok Sabha, Starred, November 30, 2012)**

(a) Whether Government has taken a decision to put Salt under Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) scanner; (b) If so, the details thereof; (c) Whether the Government has decided to set up one Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDDs) lab in every State in order to monitor incidents of IDD; and (d) if so, the details thereof along with the number of the IDD monitoring labs set up so far, State/UT-wise?

**Answer:** (a) & (b) Yes. Regulation 2.9.30 (1)(2)(3) of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulation, 2011 prescribes the standards for edible common salt including iodized salt, iron fortified common salt and iron fortified iodized salt (double fortified salt).

Regulation 2.3.12 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulation, 2011 restricts the sale of common salt for direct human consumption unless the same is iodized.

(c)&(d) Yes. It was decided to set up Iodine Deficiency Disorders Monitoring Laboratory under National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) in each State/UT with a view to effectively monitor the quality of iodated salt and the content of iodine in urine samples. For this purpose the State/UT Governments have been provided with Central financial assistance for the technical staff i.e. Lab Technician and Lab Assistant. In addition, a contingent grant is also provided for the maintenance of laboratories. So far, 30 States/UTs have established IDD Monitoring Laboratory in their respective State/UT as annexed.

## COURT/APPELLATE AUTHORITY WATCH

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, appellate authority to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in a recent decision has directed BIS to take a look at its Rules and Regulations to enable the concept of outsourcing as an accepted industrial practice. An appeal was filed by a foreign manufacturer operating in India to the Secretary against BIS order cancelling the two of its licenses on the ground that the company was outsourcing a part of its

manufacturing process and thus was contravening the BIS Regulations.

*(Corporate Law Group had appeared for the foreign manufacturer before the Appellate Authority.)*

The Appellate Authority was approached by another foreign manufacturer when its licenses were not renewed on the ground of requirement of milk fat content in lactose free infant milk formulae. Interestingly, BIS itself had granted the company the licenses in the first instance. The BIS was directed via a reasoned order to renew the licenses.

The decisions of the Appellate Authority was a paradigm shift from the dogmatic approach adopted by BIS in this era of technology when innovative, science driven and globally accepted manufacturing methods are adopted.

2. A PIL has been file in Delhi High Court in which the appointment of Mr.K.Chandramouli as Chairperson of FSSAI has been challenged. The PIL claimed that he has no experience in food safety/food science and technology as prescribed under the FSS Act. The PIL also questioned his actions including the direction for closure of Central Food Laboratory under FSS Regulations Act. The High Court has directed the ministry of health and others to respond by August 17. (Reported on 29th May, 2013)

For more please follow the link below:

<http://www.fnbnews.com/article/detnews.asp?articleid=33812&sectionid=1>

3. Ban on Junk Food in and around schools (April 27th 2013)

A PIL has been filed by Uday Foundation seeking ban on sale of junk food and

aerated drinks in and around schools in the country. In January last year, the court had given six months' time to FSSAI for framing guidelines on banning sale of junk food and aerated drinks in and around educational institutions in the country. The court had also asked the FSSAI to consult the All India Food Processors Association (AIFPA) and restaurant associations for framing the guidelines. The FSSAI said that in pursuance of the court's earlier order; it has given the task to formulate the guidelines to the private firm after inviting proposals from various expert agencies who do similar work. The next date of hearing is 24th July, 2013.

4. Kerala HC verdict on Food Safety & Standards act may impact Gutkha ban -18 January,-2013

The Kerala High Court recently ruled in favour of manufacturers and dealers of tobacco products while disposing of a writ petition filed by the dealers of tobacco products. However, the state government has appealed against the court order. Through the ruling, the ban on the sale and supply of chewing tobacco and tobacco products under the Food Safety and Standards (FSS) Act, 2006, has been struck down by the Kerala High Court. The ban was imposed on May 22, 2012.

While the verdict is applicable only for the state of Kerala, it is likely to have a deeper impact on similar bans imposed by some 16 other states earlier and which are being contested in the Supreme Court as well as few lower courts across the country. The court observed that tobacco and tobacco products were not food as defined under Section 3(J) of the Act and it was not a food product as specified in Regulation 2.3.4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sale) Regulation (FSSR), 2011.

## APPOINTMENTS/TRANSFERS/ CHARGE /CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEES

### NEW CEO FOR FSSAI

It is most likely that Mr. Dilip Kumar Samantaray, a 1982 batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre will join FSSAI as its next Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The post has been lying vacant since the last CEO, Mr.S.N.Mohonty, took over as DG, S&D, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in January this year.

There has been a lot of controversy around the Union Health Ministry handing over additional charge of CEO to the FSSAI chairperson Mr.K Chandramouli. Also, in the absence of a full time CEO, many important decisions including those on financial matters are lying pending.

For a period of around a month when the Chairperson was on leave, additional charge was handed over to Additional Secretary & DG (CGHS) RK Jain.

### NEW DIRECTOR FOR PRODUCT APPROVAL DIVISION, FSSAI

Dr. Sandha Kabra, MD, who was earlier Director, Quality Assurance Division has been made the Director, Product Approval in place of Mr. Pradeep Chakrabarty. Dr. Kabra is likely to take charge soon.

### NEW DG FOR BIS

Sunil Soni, an IAS officer from the 1981 batch of the Maharashtra cadre has been appointed as the new Director-General, BIS, Ministry of Consumer Affairs in place of Afzal Amanullah IAS UP:1979 . Prior to this he was Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance. His other Central assignments include Deputy Secretary

Ministry of Mines and Minerals from 1992-95 and as Director in the same Ministry from 1995-97

### **SUGANDHA GARWAY OF ANACON LABS ON PANEL DRAFTING FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS**

Sugandha Garway, Director, Anacon Laboratories Pvt Ltd, Nagpur, has been appointed by the FSSAI as one of the members of the food standards harmonization and development panel. Her role includes drafting food safety standards and submitting it to FSSAI by July 31, 2013

### **RECONSTITUTION OF FSSAI SCIENTIFIC PANEL FOR FUNCTIONAL FOODS, NUTRACEUTICALS, DIETETIC PRODUCTS AND OTHER SIMILAR PRODUCTS**

FSSAI has reconstituted its Scientific Panel for Functional Foods, Nutraceuticals, Dietetic Products and Other Similar Products. This is the third reshuffle of the very important Panel. The Panel consists of: (1) Dr. V. Prakash, Former Director, CFTRI (2) Dr. K. Madhavan Nair, Scientist, National Institute of Nutrition (3) Dr. Anuja Agarwala, Head, Dietician, AIIMS, New Delhi (4) Dr. D.B. Anantha Narayana, Expert Member, Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (5) Dr. Premendra Dhar Dwivedi, Principal Scientist, Food Toxicology Division, Room # 303, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, Lucknow (6) Sh. Kumar Bhatia, Chief Consultant (Post Harvest Management and Marketing), Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operation, GoI (7) Dr. Bikash Chandra Ghosh., Principal Scientist, Dairy Technology Section, NDRI, Abugodi 560 030, Bangalore (8) Dr. Partha Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, IIT, Roorkee (9) Dr. A .G.Appu Rao, CSIR Scientist Emeritus, University of Mysore, Mysore (10) Dr. S. Venkat Rao, Former Area

Co-ordinator and Head, Department of Nutrition and Food Safety, CFTRI, Mysore (11) Dr. Sandhya Kulshreshtha, Consultant, Directorate General of Health Service, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi (12) Dr. Manorma Kanuri, Professor (Food and Nutrition ) and Head and Programme Director (Food Technology), Post Graduate and Research Centre, Food and Nutrition and Food Technology, Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad (13) Dr. P. Goswami, Senior Principal Scientist, North East Institute of Science and Technology, Jorhat (14) Dr. Suman Kapur, Dean, Research and Consultancy, Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Hyderabad (15) Dr. Virender K. Batish, Emeritus Scientist, Molecular Biology Unit, Dairy Microbiology Division, NDRI, Karnal

### **CONSTITUTION OF A NEW FSSAI SCIENTIFIC PANEL FOR FISH AND FISHERIES PRODUCTS**

FSSAI has recently formed a new ninth Scientific Panel for Fish and Fisheries products. Dr. S. Ayyappan, Director General (ICAR) & Secretary (DARE), New Delhi has been nominated as the Chairman.

## **INTERVIEWS OF INTEREST**

### **INTERVIEW OF K. CHANDRAMOULI, CHAIRMAN, FSSAI**

“FSSAI is responsible body & will comply with mandate”

MAY 13, 2013

FSSAI has the uphill task of implementing the food safety law - the Food Safety & Standards Regulations, 2011 - in its true letter and spirit. However, in view of the tepid response to implementation of the regulations' part pertaining to licensing &

registration of food business operators (FBOs), the authority has been facing various challenges, externally and internally. Topping the internal issues faced by the authority is the one relating to its senior officials such as chief executive officer and enforcement director quitting to take up plum assignments.

FSSAI chairman K Chandramouli comes clear on the issue and more to Ashwani Maindola on the sidelines of a conference held in New Delhi recently

**Officials of FSSAI are either seeking transfer or stepping down, and some posts are still vacant. Would it affect FSSAI's work?**

FSSAI is able to manage its work. It is a responsible organisation and will comply with the mandate assigned to it. People come and go, and it is our duty that our responsibilities are not affected.

**Do you think licensing and registration of FBOs will be completed by end of the newly-extended deadline?**

We are optimistic about completing the task within the deadline. And it is the responsibility of everyone to help FSSAI in achieving the goal of food safety. However, enforcement is going to be a mixed bag.

**What challenges will FSSAI face while implementing the regulations?**

FSSAI is a regulatory body, and licensing and registrations is just a way to streamline the identification of food business operators. It is a way for identifying the FBOs so that food safety norms would be implemented.

It does not restrict any FBO from experimenting with his or her product or suggest how they should prepare, but only states that they should keep in mind the

aspects of adulteration, hygiene and sanitation.

And we have been trying to bring together all the stakeholders on the same platform. The governments of all the states have a huge role to play, and the role of civil society will also become larger.

**Are Codex norms applicable to Indian needs?**

The harmonisation of Codex Alimentarius norms with respect to Indian food habits is required because the ethnic food or cultural food has no standard formula. For instance, the samosa in north India may be different from that in south India.

However the basic requirements of checking additives, pesticide residues, sanitation and hygiene, should be taken care of. Wherever Codex norms could be implemented in their original form, they would be.

**And, street food?**

Street food improvement is something we are looking at, as it is important to each city and has the potential to grow. So firstly, street food vendors must take care of such aspects as cleanliness and sanitation. This would not only help the local economy, but also add to food diversity.

**What are FSSAI's future plans?**

We would be taking the issue of food safety to schools. We would consult the education ministry to include the subjects of food safety in the curriculum. Children are most affected and ill-informed about choices regarding food habits.

Moreover, lifestyle diseases like obesity are on the increase, which is a huge problem. Secondly, FSSAI would be undertaking

awareness campaigns, training, and building capacity, amongst others.

**INTERVIEW WITH KESHAV DESHRAJU, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,**

“Challenges facing FSSAI include licensing, registration”

MAY 27, 2013

**The CEO and other top officials of FSSAI are either stepping down or seeking transfers. Some key posts are still vacant. Could you throw light on this?**

As you are aware, the FSSAI has been set up fairly recently and is an autonomous regulatory body under the health and family welfare ministry as per the guidelines laid down in the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The chief executive officer is appointed by the government and other officers working in FSSAI are on deputation. The authority floated a vacancy notice in leading newspapers recently to fill the posts that became vacant because of the transfers or deputations on Foreign Service term or short-term contract basis.

Adequate steps are being taken to ensure that the authority is manned by well-qualified and experienced officers.

**What steps is the ministry taking to implement food safety laws in India? What are the areas of focus and major concern with respect to food safety?**

The passing of the FSSA, 2006 - which led to the creation of the FSSAI - led to the shift from multi-level to a single line of control with the focus on self-compliance rather than on the regulatory regime as far as food safety is concerned.

It also introduced uniform licensing and registration regime across the Centre and the states. One of the major roles of FSSAI is the setting up of science-based food standards by harmonizing with the Codex standards, wherever possible.

Many steps have been taken to implement food safety laws in India like

An online licensing portal and online food import clearance system are in place.

The procedure for harmonisation of Indian food standards with those of the Codex Alimentarius has been initiated.

Notified referral labs for purpose of food analysis.

Creating awareness through mass media for various stakeholders on topics like licensing and registration, misleading claims made by companies, misbranding, adulteration, hygiene practices and safe food messages. Checking the safety of the food being imported into the country presently at select ports.

**How is the government planning to cover all food business operators in India, after two extensions to the deadline for licensing and registration?**

Under the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Regulations, 2011, FBOs are expected to obtain licences and registration under these regulations.

India is a vast country and the size of the FBOs ranges from small, petty ones with turnover of less than Rs 12 lakh to large ones. Depending upon their size in terms of production and turnover, licences are to be granted either by the Centre (i.e. by FSSAI) or by the respective state governments.

A majority of the licences and registrations are to be issued by the respective state governments. It is a challenge, and sensitising the state governments to the enormity of the task at hand would be taken up at all levels. We would also give them some assistance for strengthening the food safety infrastructure in the Twelfth Five-Year Plan.

### **What challenges do the authorities face while implementing the laws?**

The challenges facing the Authority are primarily threefold: the sheer quantum of licensing and registration work to be undertaken by the state governments, upgradation/ strengthening of food testing laboratory infrastructure for monitoring and surveillance purpose and harmonisation of product standards with Codex, wherever feasible. Consumers are also important stakeholders and we are focussing on making them aware about the provision of the Act, its implementations and their role through various campaigns. A well-informed consumer can also help greatly in demanding safe food and spreading the message of food safety.

### **Are the authorities doing a satisfactory job of implementing the food safety regulations?**

The six regulations that were notified by the authority on August 5, 2011, were all being implemented. The authority is also in the process of notifying some new regulations covering other areas.

### **What can the country expect from the health ministry in the coming years with respect to food safety?**

The health ministry is aware about the importance of the food safety as an important lever of the national economy. Having an independent regulatory body

such as FSSAI looking into these aspects will bring in focussed concerted action.

During the Twelfth Five-Year Plan, the ministry will strive to provide FSSAI with the requisite funds for it to focus on strengthening of enforcement structure in each state, creation of robust surveillance, upgrading of food safety laboratory infrastructure, capacity-building of the stakeholders in the food safety regulatory network, communication and awareness for consumers / FBOs / other stakeholders to help them make informed choices.

### **Is there any mechanism in place or proposed to look into complaints against FSSAI?**

FSSAI has in place a well-defined process through which complaints against FSSAI can be made to them by logging on to their website, calling up the helpline or in writing to the senior officers of the Authority.

<http://www.fbnnews.com/article/detnews.asp?articleid=33753&sectionid=11>

## **OTHER LATEST NEWS OF INTEREST**

**THE TWO BOLLYWOOD SUPERSTARS, ALONG WITH EIGHT CRICKETERS INCLUDING SACHIN TENDULKAR AND MS DHONI, FACE THE IRE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD SAFETY**

JUNE 14, 2013

Bollywood stars and cricketers do tons of advertisements every year. At times, it turns out that the number of movies that a star does, or the number of matches a cricketer plays is far less than the number of ad films they do! At this pace, it seems like they are

becoming careless about the kind of products they endorse.

The Department of Food Safety, Uttarakhand has lodged a complaint against a number of celebrities including Hrithik Roshan, Priyanka Chopra and eight other cricketers for promoting adulterated products. The cricketers who were mentioned are Virat Kohli, Suresh Raina, Yuvraj Singh, Gautam Gambhir, Virendra Sehwag and Zaheer Khan. The government has also filed a case against Sahara honcho Subrata Roy since the contaminated products were found at his shop, Sahara-Q.

<http://www.india.com/topic/Department-Of-Food-Safety-Uttarakhand.html>

#### **FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA GETS RS 2,350 CRORE OUTLAY FOR 12TH FIVE-YEAR PLAN**

APR 12, 2013

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India is understood to have been allocated Rs 2,350 crore under 12th Five-Year Plan as against Rs 5,000 crore it had sought for the period.

The FSSAI was set up in 2008 after the Food Safety & Standards Act was passed in 2006. It became active only after regulations of the Act were notified in 2011.

As per its plan, the FSSAI is working to bring on board about 5.5 crore people, engaged in various food businesses, and register them with the organisation by February 2014.

According to Chandramouli

"...The target is to register and issue licences to about 5.5 crore food business operators across India by February 2014,"

- To check and maintain food standards, the country needs many testing laboratories and FSSAI is in the process of setting up these"

- "Our aim is to have at least one laboratory in each state initially. Later, we plan it to increase this to at least one lab for every 20 districts in the next five years"

- At present, there are 72 government laboratories, which are to be upgraded during this period. Simultaneously, 33 new such testing centres will also be set up.

- "Our country imports lot of food items now. Though there is no fixed figure available, but Rs 2-3 lakh crore of foods come to India every year.

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-04-12/news/38491346\\_1\\_crore-the-fssai-food-items](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-04-12/news/38491346_1_crore-the-fssai-food-items)

#### **FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR GOT RS 6,198-CR FDI IN LESS THAN 3 YRS**

MAR 22, 2013

Foreign investors have invested Rs 6,198 crore in India's food processing industries (FPIs) in a little less than four (rpt) four years ending 2012, Parliament was informed today.

"Total foreign direct investment (FDI) in FPI sector during April, 2009 to December, 2012 is Rs 6,197.63 crore," Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Charan Das

Mahant said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

India allows 100 per cent FDI in food processing sector. Foreign firms do not require government's approval to start business here. Moreover, they can take advantage of the development schemes offered by the government.

During the 11th Plan Period, the government had launched a mega food parks scheme for the development of FPIs and has approved 30 such projects so far.

Quoting figures from the Annual Survey of Industries and National Sample Survey, the Minister, in a separate reply, said 64.67 lakh people are currently engaged in the country's FPI sector.

Mahant, however, said that his Ministry has not conducted any country-wide survey of the backward and rural areas of the country for setting up FPIs.

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-03-22/news/37936678\\_1\\_fdi-foreign-direct-investment-fpi-sector](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-03-22/news/37936678_1_fdi-foreign-direct-investment-fpi-sector)

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*References have been given for the news items we have taken from various sources.*