

(d) and (e) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has prepared an 'Implementation-Framework' to prioritize implementation of strategies proposed in the National Health Policy.

Uniform law for food safety

1207. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplates a uniform law for implementation, compliance and surveillance in food safety;

(b) whether Government has any plan to pursue "one-nation, one-food-safety law" to standardize food safety laws across all the States;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued guidelines to all the notified food test laboratories; and

(e) what steps FSSAI has taken for strengthening and upgradation of the food testing infrastructure in the country to bring it at par with international standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) Umbrella food safety law *i.e.* Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 envisages a unified food safety law in the spirit of 'One Nation One Food Law' to ensure food safety by consolidating various existing laws and orders relating to food into a single statute. Thus, there is already one food law that outlines standards and procedures for various food products. However, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched 'One Nation One Food Law' initiative so that every State level food authority follows a standard practice for the implementation, compliance and surveillance of the said food safety law to ensure that investors and food businesses have consistent positive experience across States while dealing with regulatory environment.

(b) and (c) Under this initiative, FSSAI has launched an online Food Safety Compliance through-Regular Inspections and Sampling (FoSCo-RIS) that food safety officer will use to verify compliance of safety standards by food businesses. It will ensure that uniform matrices are used to conduct test and sample collections and will bring transparency.

FSSAI has also brought out a Food Safety Officers Manual outlining the procedures and practices that must be followed by them during sampling and inspection. It also outlines code of ethics that food safety officers should follow during inspection and sampling. FSSAI has also launched a centralised lab management system called Indian Food Laboratory Network (InFoLNet). A large number of labs have already registered with this network. This will ensure that all the test results are available in a central data base which will be used for various purposes.

(d) FSSAI has approved for final notification the Food Safety and Standards (Recognition and Notification of Laboratories) Regulations covering different types of food laboratories (primary testing, referral and reference) and their functions, criteria for recognition, recognition process, responsibilities of food laboratories, procedure for suspension and cancellation of recognition including some special situations and dispute resolution.

(e) FSSAI notifies only those food testing laboratories which are compliant to ISO 17025 which is an International Standard for accreditation of testing laboratories. FSSAI manuals of method of analysis and testing of various foods have adopted validated methods from different international agencies.

Further, a Central Sector Scheme for "Strengthening of Food Testing System in the Country Including Provision of Mobile Food Testing Labs" has been rolled out by the FSSAI with an outlay of ₹ 481.95 crore for the period from 2016-17 to 2018-19. One of the major components of the scheme is capacity building of food testing laboratories. The ultimate objective of this component is to ensure that all the State Food testing laboratories attain the NABL accreditation and bring them at par with international standards.

Cases filed against Government doctors

1208. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) how many cases, in the last three years, have been initiated by the Medical Council of India against doctors serving in Central Government;
- (b) of these, in how many cases have licences of doctors been cancelled; and
- (c) the particulars of such doctors along with their present status?