

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3227
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8TH AUGUST, 2025**

ROLE OF FSSAI AND CUSTOMS IN FOOD IMPORT

3227. SHRI SRIBHARAT MATHUKUMILLI:

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the implications of delegating food import inspection responsibilities to Customs Officers at various Points of Entry (PoEs) under Food Safety and Standards (Import) Regulations, 2017;
- (b) if so, the details of any such assessments conducted during the last ten years, including capacity audits or performance evaluations of Customs Officers acting as FSSAI Authorised Officers, year-wise;
- (c) whether this delegation has impacted the quality and consistency of food safety enforcement, particularly in screening high-risk imports such as spices and edible oils, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance coordination between FSSAI and Customs, strengthen officer training, and ensure independent, science-based scrutiny of food consignments entering through land and seaports?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) & (b): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified Customs officers as Authorised Officer (AO) to follow the same procedure of inspection as mentioned in Food Safety and Standards (Import), Regulations, 2017. As per the prescribed procedure, documents scrutiny and visual inspection is done by the Customs officers notified as AO and the laboratory testing of the imported sample is done by the FSSAI notified laboratory. Safety and Quality parameters of the imported products are ascertained only through the FSSAI notified lab. The same procedure is followed by FSSAI officers notified as AO.

(c): FSSAI Vide Notice dated 11th January, 2023, High risk food items as identified by

FSSAI are permitted to be imported only through those Points of Entry (PoEs) where FSSAI officers are directly notified as 'AO'. Further, Customs officers notified as AO by FSSAI do documents scrutiny and visual inspection and the sample is tested by FSSAI notified laboratory only.

(d): For capacity building of Customs Officers notified as Authorised Officer by FSSAI, both online and classroom trainings are regularly conducted on the key regulatory requirement specified under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Regulations made there under regarding the clearance of imported food consignments FSSAI has also developed an online self-training module, i.e. Food Import Clearance Training of Authorised Custom Officers (FICTAC) for training of Customs Officers notified as Authorised Officer.
