

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1082
ANSWERED ON 05TH FEBRUARY, 2026

ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD TESTING LABORATORIES UNDER PMKSY

1082. MS. S JOTHIMANI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has approved or proposes to establish hundred NABL-accredited food testing laboratories across country under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) during 2025–26, if so, the details thereof along with total financial outlay and implementation timeline;
- (b) the number of such laboratories sanctioned, operationalised, under implementation as on date, along with the funds released and utilised;
- (c) whether any locations in Karur Parliamentary Constituency, including Assembly segments of Karur, Manapparai, Vendasandur, Viralimalai, Aravakurichi, and Kadavur, have been identified or shortlisted for setting up these laboratories and if so, the details thereof along with the present status and timelines;
- (d) the criteria adopted for selection of locations if no such laboratory is proposed in above-mentioned areas and whether proposals from Tamil Nadu, particularly Karur region, are under consideration and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which these laboratories would support farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), micro and small food processing units in quality testing of produce such as millets, pulses, oilseeds, milk, fruits, vegetables, seafood, facilitate compliance with FSSAI, export standards?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI RAVNEET SINGH)

(a) & (b): Under the Food Safety & Quality Assurance Infrastructure (FSQAI) Scheme, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has floated Expression of Interest (EOI) on 21.11.2025 on SAMPADA portal of the Ministry, for the establishment of 100 NABL-accredited food-testing laboratories across the country with total financial outlay of Rs.500.00 crore. The EOI is open till 10.02.2026. The scheme provides for a maximum financial assistance of ₹5 crore per project. The approved projects are required to be completed and made operational within 24 months from the date of issue of the approval letter in General Areas, and within 30 months in Difficult Areas. The selection process will be undertaken after the closure of EOI. As on date, no funds have been released or utilised against the current EOI.

(c) & (d): The FSQAI Scheme is demand-driven in nature. Proposals are invited on an all-India basis through EOIs floated from time to time on the Ministry's SAMPADA Portal. Ministry does

not identify or shortlist any location for setting-up of Food Testing Laboratory on its own. The proposals received on the SAMPADA Portal will be considered on the basis of merit as per scheme guidelines including those from the Karur Parliamentary Constituency and its Assembly segments of Karur, Manapparai, Vendasandur, Viralimalai, Aravakurichi, and Kadavur, if received.

(e): The laboratories will facilitate testing for food safety parameters, quality standards, contaminants, residues and microbiological parameters, thereby enabling stakeholders to comply with Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) regulations, as well as domestic and international export standards. Improved access to testing infrastructure is expected to reduce turnaround time and costs, enhance market access, promote value addition, and support the production of safe, high-quality food products.
