

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 61
ANSWERED ON 29TH JANUARY, 2026

COMPLEX REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT FACED BY THE FPI

61. SHRI Y.S. AVINASH REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the complex regulatory environment faced by the Food Processing Industry (FPI) and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to streamline compliance processes for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs);
- (c) whether any discussions are underway to introduce a single-window clearance system for the food processing sector and if so, the expected timeline for its implementation; and
- (d) the challenges posed by multiple agencies such as the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and State-level bodies along with the efforts made by the Ministry to harmonize regulatory standards across States?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The regulatory matters in respect of food safety and standards are handled by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) under the administrative control of M/o Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

A High Level Committee on Non-Financial Regulatory Reforms under the Chairmanship of Member, NITI Aayog has been constituted vide Cabinet Secretariat's Notification dated 19.08.2025. This Committee is mandated to review non-financial sector regulations, certifications, licenses, and permissions, pertaining to the Union Government, with the objective of developing a modern, flexible, people friendly, and trust based regulatory framework appropriate for 21st Century, and unlocking productivity and employment. The Committee had a meeting with FSSAI/MoHFW along with Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) on 6th September 2025 and deliberated on regulatory issues and challenges faced by the Food Processing Industries.

FSSAI is mandated to lay down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and FSSAI standards are uniform across the country.

While FSSAI, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is responsible for laying down science-based standards and ensuring overall coordination, the State Food Safety Authorities are primarily responsible for enforcement at the field level. In order to ensure uniformity in the implementation of harmonized and effective food safety enforcement mechanisms across all states, the FSSAI coordinates with the State Food Safety Authorities and has following key measures in place:

- i. Regular training programs for Food Safety Officers (FSOs), Designated Officers (DOs), and laboratory personnel ensures standardized practices across the states.
- ii. One stop online platforms like the Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) and the Indian Food Laboratory Network (INFoLNet) are unanimously being used by all the states/UTS, to facilitate real-time data maintenance & effective monitoring by the enforcement authorities. These platforms ensure uniformity across the nation in respect of enforcement action taken.
- iii. Regular engagement with State Food Safety Commissioners through Central Advisory Committee meetings (held quarterly) for reviewing the status of enforcement machinery and proper implementation of food safety measures. The Central Advisory Committee ensures close cooperation between the Food Authority and the enforcement agencies and organisations operating in the field of food.

Further, FSSAI has also taken steps from time to time to streamline its Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) which is a specialized portal for food licensing. Steps have also been taken to integrate with the National Single Window System (NSWS) platform, established by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to enhance investor convenience.
