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FSSAI IN NEWS

FOOD LAB ROLLS OUT: Health minister Ramchandra Chandravanshi, along with other officials, flags off the mobile food lab in Namkum, Ranchi, on Friday and (above) a technician at work. Pictures by Subodh Kumar

Ranchi: The food safety wing of the state health department launched on Friday its first mobile testing lab to curb adulteration at pocket-friendly rates.

Health minister Ramchandra Chandravanshi flagged off the fully equipped vehicle in the presence of department secretary Nidhi Khare and other officials from the RCH (reproductive child health) campus in Namkum.

The customised lab, allotted by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), is equipped to test primarily starch content, adulteration and additives in edible items such as spices, flour and paneer, among other things. The central food safety watchdog has also sanctioned Rs 5 lakh as operational cost for a period of three years. The health department has appointed two chemists and an assistant technician, besides a driver, to man the van.

The lab-on-wheels will offer its maiden services at Albert Ekka Chowk on two days next week. The second phase of its on-spot testing in the city and other districts are being worked out, said officials.