

FSSAI to start rigorous inspections at FBOs across country, says Agarwal

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FSSAI is gearing up for rigorous large-scale inspections to be carried out at FBOs' premises across the country in order to ensure compliance with the FSS Regulations, 2011. This has been revealed at an event hosted by industry body CII on Thursday.

Speaking at the event, Pawan Agarwal, CEO, FSSAI, stated that FBOs (Food Business Operators) must adhere to the norms prescribed under the regulations and be ready for a rigorous inspection regime.

Agarwal explained, "It was to make sure that FBOs follow best standards and build trust amongst people about the safety and quality of food products." He added that quality surveys of food products in the country will be done, just like the milk survey carried out by the apex food regulator recently.

The CEO informed that surveillance would be carried out to know about the possible risk and in course of that FSSAI would be able to generate a robust data for contingency planning in future.

According to Agarwal, the mandate of FSSAI is to ensure safe and wholesome food for the citizens of the country and the body has taken several initiatives in this regard. "Still people don't trust packaged food as much as home cooked food and therefore it's the responsibility of the FBOs to bring the trust amongst the consumers," he said.

Highlighting the work done by the apex food regulator in recent times, Agarwal stated that FSSAI is trying to develop a new ecosystem for food regulations wherein FBOs and Food Safety Officers (FSOs) both know well about their jobs. The FSSAI is focussing more on training of FBOs and FSOs, strengthening of lab infrastructure in the country and more importantly, nudging the state machinery.

FSSAI is focussing on leveraging technology to fill the gap of human resource and therefore efforts have been made on making an alliance of scientific, research, academic institutions to carry out its mandate.