SUBJECT:- Minutes of the 17th Authority Meeting held on 18th May, 2015.

The Authority adopted the minutes of the 17th Authority Meeting held on 18th May, 2015 at FDA Bhawan, New Delhi in its 18th Meeting held on 04th September, 2015.

2. Accordingly, the minutes of the 17th Authority are being uploaded on the website of FSSAI.

(Rakesh Chandra Sharma)
Director (GA)

Enclosure:
Minutes of the 17th Meeting of the Food Authority.

सुरक्षित आहार, स्वास्थ्य का आधार
Minutes of the 17th meeting of the Food Authority held on May 18, 2015 at 1030 hrs at FDA Bhavan, New Delhi

The 17th meeting of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was held on 18th May, 2015 at 1030 hrs. at FDA Bhawan, Kotla Road, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri B.P. Sharma, Chairperson, FSSAI & Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The list of participants present in the meeting is placed at Annexure - I. Leave of absence was granted to the members who could not attend.

2. Shri Y.S. Malik, Chief Executive Officer, FSSAI welcomed Shri B.P. Sharma, Chairperson and Members of the Authority to the meeting. The Chairperson FSSAI had a brief round of introduction of all the Members of the Authority and other participants. Thereafter, he requested the CEO, FSSAI to initiate and conduct the proceedings of the meeting.

Agenda Items: Items I to IV

Agenda Item No. I:
Disclosure of interest by the members

All the members present during the meeting signed the “Specific Declaration of Interest” in respect of the agenda items placed for consideration in the meeting before the start of the proceedings.

Agenda Item No. II:
Confirmation of the minutes of the Authority meeting held on 16.01.2015

(i) The CEO informed that the minutes of the 16th Meeting had been circulated to all the members and no comments had been received from any quarter on the same. He proposed confirmation/ adoption thereof. The Chairperson specifically asked the members if they had any comments on the minutes. Ms. Shreya Pandey made certain observations on Item No. V (1) regarding the Policy for Time frame for FSS Regulations to come into force and also handed over some written comments. The CEO clarified that the member had every opportunity to make her comments on the subject during the course of the meeting and observed that the minutes were meant to be a faithful record of the deliberations of the meeting and could not be used a platform for consideration of any deliberations held after the meeting. However, the Chairperson observed that the written comments may be examined separately, which, if required, could be placed before the Authority in
its next meeting. With the above observations, the draft Minutes of the 16th meeting of the Authority, as circulated among the members, were approved/adopted.

(ii) It was further decided that in case any of the members had any observations on the minutes of the meetings of the Authority in future, the member concerned would forward his/her comments within 7 days to the CEO so that the comments, along with response thereto, could be placed before the Authority as part of the confirmation agenda in the following meeting.

**Agenda Item No. III:**
**Action Taken Report – 16th Authority Meeting**

The Action Taken Report of the 16th meeting of the Food Authority was presented before the members of the Food Authority.

**Agenda Item No. IV:**
**Chief Executive Officer's Report**

(i) Recalling that the last meeting of the Authority was held on 16th January, 2015, the CEO, FSSAI highlighted the action taken and various developments after the last meeting of the Authority. He invited attention of all the Members to the two most contentious issues pertaining to Product Approvals and Import Clearances and explained the issues in detail. Special attention was drawn to Sections 19 to 22 of the FSS Act, which are highly restrictive in nature, and the progress made in disposal of applications for Product Approvals. He explained in detail the process of import clearance along with a detailed analysis of the time taken at various points during the process of clearance.

(ii) Further, he gave a brief overview of the Enforcement activities and informed that as on 06.04.2015, a total of 5, 52,258 licenses had been granted by the States/UTs to the Food Business Operators and 23,79,653 FBOs registered under the FSS Act, 2006. Also, 19,365 Central Licenses had been issued by Central Designated Officers under the FSS Act, 2006.

(iii) The CEO gave an overview of the IEC activities undertaken during the period with a special mention of the event hosted by FSSAI in coordination with NCDC and WHO India office on the WHO day being celebrated with Food Safety as the theme during 2015 and the special campaigns being undertaken under "Jago Grahak
"Jago" jointly with the Department of Consumer Affairs. He also elaborated the work done by the Scientific Committee/Scientific Panels and training and capacity building activities undertaken during the period. With respect to the Codex Activities, the CEO highlighted that India would assume the role of Regional Coordinator for CCASIA for 3 years from July onwards subject to the ratification at the forthcoming session of the CAC. He also informed the Authority about the successful co-hosting of the 9th Session of Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food from 16th to 20th March 2015 at New Delhi.

(iv) While the members appreciated the detailed report presented by the CEO, various observations/suggestions made by the members on the CEO report are as follows:

(a) Ms. Shreya Pandey raised the issue of cases registered under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and pending before various courts and the need for taking a view in the matter. It was explained that Section 97(i) of the Act contained a specific provision in this behalf and the Food Authority had no jurisdiction to intervene in the matter.

(b) Dr. A.K. Srivastava appreciated the work done in the Authority and also suggested that an annual calendar for training of the stakeholders could be prepared along with the identified institutions who could also be joined up as partners in training and capacity building. The CEO welcomed the suggestion and assured to work on the same.

(c) Sh. Vasudev Thakkar wanted to understand the recourse available to a consumer for lodging complaints against the sub-standard or misbranded foods. He suggested that a toll free number or help-line should be printed on the label of the packaged food commodity for registration of a complaint by a consumer. He further suggested that a packaged food commodity should carry a single standard term for an ingredient on the label instead of multiple terms and cited an example of different names of sugar that are given. The CEO acknowledged that the procedure for launching prosecutions against the defaulting Food Business Operators, as given in the FSS Act, was extremely cumbersome. He explained that as per the existing provisions of the FSS Act, only the Food Safety Officer could draw the legal samples and recommend prosecution against the
defaulting FBO. As regards the printing of toll-free numbers on the labels, the CEO informed that the exercise on a comprehensive review of the Packaging, Labelling and Claims regulations was under process but it may not be feasible to mandate the printing of toll-free numbers on the labels as the enforcement functions primarily rested with the respective States and UTs. The Chairperson observed that the suggestion regarding a toll-free number or Helpline be examined for which the FSSAI may also find out the process being followed by Department of Consumer Affairs in this behalf.

(d) Sh. Vasudev Thakkar also stated that though the NABL accredited labs had been entrusted with the task of testing of food samples, some of the labs did not have required chemical/ reagents for carrying out analysis of all the parameters prescribed for different food commodities. Another member observed that different laboratories were using different methodologies for testing of different food commodities. The CEO, FSSAI informed that the Authority was seized of the work on development of the testing parameters and methodologies and the first draft had already been finalised by the sub-committee headed by Dr. Lalitha Gowda in this behalf. Once finalised, this would standardize the testing parameters and methodologies of food samples. He further informed that once the testing parameters were notified, all the accredited labs would be duty bound to follow the same or face de-accreditation. He also informed that the FSSAI was proposing to set up a national level food testing lab which was envisaged to be connected to the NABL accredited labs. Once this proposal matured, the huge database generated on the basis of test reports would be immensely helpful in developing the standards of food products.

(e) Ms Anuradha Prasad, JS, MoFPI explained the broad contours of the Scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industry on setting up/ upgradation of Food Testing laboratories and requested that prioritisation for assistance could be made based on the location specific requirements. Sh. Utpal Kumar Singh, JS, Department of Agriculture, also offered that the networked laboratories under the All India Pesticide Network could also be used for generation and compilation of database in this behalf.
(f) The Chairperson wanted to know about the feedback on functioning of the Food Product Approval System (FPAS) from the representative of the industries. The members stated no specific problems had been brought to their notice after release of the latest version in the system.

(g) The CEO informed that the import regulations were at advanced stage of finalization and every effort would be made to complete the work by 30th May 2015. The comments, which had been received on the draft notification published earlier, were being examined and in case there were no substantial changes in the draft published earlier, then, subject to approval by the Authority, it may be possible to go in for publication of the final notification. The Chairperson suggested that Import Regulations, once finalised, may be electronically circulated amongst the members of the Authority.

Agenda Item No. V:
Regular Agenda Items:

After the presentation of CEO’s report, regular agenda items were taken up for deliberations as under:

Agenda Item No. 17.1 -
Amendments to 'The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Transaction of Business at its Meetings) Regulations, 2010'.

(i) The CEO explained the proposed amendments in the Regulation. He further explained that apart from regulation specific proposed amendments, the proposal entailed one common amendment in the Transaction of Business Regulations for the Authority, the CAC and the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels regarding revision of the Sitting Fee payable to the Members/ Scientific Experts. He explained that the said Regulations were also being proposed to be amended with delegation to the Food Authority to revise the sitting fee at periodic intervals so as to avoid the need for amendment in the regulations every time any such revision was undertaken. He further explained that the current rates of sitting fee had been fixed in the year 2010 and needed to be revised suitably. He further stated that though the proposal was for revision of the sitting fee from Rs. 2,000/- per day or part thereof to Rs. 3000/- for the FSSAI, the Authority may reconsider
the same keeping in view that the same was being paid @ Rs. 5000/- per day or part thereof on the Drugs side.

(ii) The proposal was discussed and it was observed that the sitting fee should be prescribed at a level that did not discourage the Members/Experts from attending the meetings of the Authority/ CAC/Scientific Committee/ Panels etc. Sh. Vasudev Thakkar wanted to know the financial implications involved in the proposal. The CEO stated that he did not have the ready figures on that account, however, the increase would be directly proportional to the number of meetings held and the level of participation. After detailed discussions, it was decided to determine the sitting fee @ Rs. 4,000/- per day or part thereof and further decided that the same rates be made applicable for the CAC and the Scientific Committee/ Scientific Panels/ Expert invitees etc.

(iii) The CEO further informed the members that the Transaction of Business Regulations for the Authority, the Central Advisory Committee and the Scientific Committee/ Panels had been notified in the first instance without going through the process of inviting comments keeping in view that these regulations were more or less in the nature of internal procedure related matters of the Authority. He proposed following the same process qua the amendments proposed under Agenda Item Nos. 1, 2, and 3 respectively.

(iv) As regards the amendment proposed in the Regulation qua the Socio-economic Impact evaluation, it was observed that the Authority was bound to evaluate the overall impact of any proposal in accordance with the general principles laid down in Section 18 of the Act and there was no need to limit the said role through the Regulation. Pursuant to the discussions, following decisions were taken:

(a) The proposal for amendment of the said regulation qua the evaluation of social, economic, and health impact of any proposal was dropped;

(b) The proposal for revision of Clause 16 of the said regulations was approved with the modification that the Sitting fee be revised to Rs. 4,000/- per day or part thereof for the members of the Food Authority other than the ex-officio members, along with the provision for a revision of the same every two years.
(c) The proposal at para (iii) above was also approved.

Agenda Item No. 17.2 -
Amendments to 'The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Procedure for Transaction of Business of the Central Advisory Committee) Regulations, 2010'

The agenda item was discussed and the Authority resolved to approve the proposed amendments to 'The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Procedure for Transaction of Business of the Central Advisory Committee) Regulations, 2010', with the modification that the Sitting Fee be revised to Rs. 4,000/- per day or part thereof for the members of the CAC, other than the ex-officio members, along with the provision for a revision of the same every two years.

Agenda Item No. 17.3 -
Revision of 'The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (Procedures for Scientific Committee and Scientific Panels) Regulations, 2010' to substitute the same with the proposed Draft Regulation

The Agenda was explained in detail, along with the item-by-item changes proposed in the said regulation. After discussions, the Authority resolved to approve the proposal with the modification that the Sitting Fee be revised to Rs. 4,000/- per day or part thereof for the members of the Scientific Committee, the Scientific Panels, and Expert Groups constituted and/or Special Invitees. The Food Authority further resolved that the honorarium for the Rapporteurs be also fixed at Rs. 2,000/- per day or part thereof.

Agenda Item No. 17.4 -
Constitution of the New Scientific Panels

(i) The agenda item was explained in detail along with the Addendum to Annexure-I. The CEO explained the process followed for inviting Expressions of Interest, publication of EoI on the website, as also semi-official communications sent to heads of about 60 reputed institutions for nominations of experts, invitations extended to the known experts who had not responded to the EoI call, and the process followed for short-listing & selection of the members proposed for each Panel.

(ii) Sh. Vasudev Thakkar desired to know the criteria adopted for selection of the members for various Panels. He further stated that everyone may not be
accessing the website and suggested that, as per General Clauses Act, every notification should also be published in English as well as regional language newspapers.

(iii) The CEO explained the criteria adopted based on the allocation of marks for different aspects. He further explained that the EOIs received from persons engaged with the Industry or working as consultants with any industry had not been considered due to an inherent conflict of interest. As regards the need for simultaneous publication of such notices in the newspapers, the CEO agreed that the Food Authority could publish the sum and substance of all such important notices in some of the leading English and Regional languagae newspapers with reference to the availability of details on the FSSAI website.

(iv) The Chairman observed that availability of competent subject matter experts was itself a major challenge. Moreover, given the need for establishment of more Scientific Panels for expediting the process of laying down more and more vertical standards for a larger number of Food Products, he commended approval of the proposal. Accordingly, the Authority resolved to approve the proposal as per the agenda.

(v) The Authority further resolved to constitute a sub-committee comprising (i) Dr. (Mrs.) Lalitha Gowda, (ii) Dr. A.K. Srivastava, (iii) Dr. G.S. Toteja, (iv) Sh. Vasudev Thakkar, and (v) Ms. Meetu Kapur to deliberate on the process that should be followed in selection of members for the Panels/Experts in future and submit its recommendations to the FSSAI in this behalf within the shortest possible time. The CEO shall nominate the officer to coordinate the meetings of the sub-committee. The recommendations of the sub-committee be placed before the Authority for consideration/approval in its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 17.5 -
Draft Regulations for Alcoholic Beverages:

(i) The agenda item was explained. The CEO proposed two additions in the Draft Standards Regulation, namely,

“1. After sub-regulation 6.3, the following be added: In case of imported alcoholic beverages, the information regarding (i) FSSAI Logo and Licence number; (ii) the Name and Address of the importer shall be allowed to be affixed in the custom bonded warehouse in the form an additional sticker in a manner that it does
not overlap or mask the original information of the label in any manner.

2. **6.12- Add the following:**
The Statutory Warning shall be printed in English language. In case the respective states wish the same to be also printed in their local/regional languages, the same shall be allowed through an additional Sticker, without the need for repeating the English version."

(iii) Members representing the industries raised their concerns with respect to the "Indian Whisky" and "Flavoured Brandy" as these terms would have trade related implications in terms of export.

(iii) The comments/suggestions on the trade related issues were discussed. Since the JS Commerce was not present in the meeting, it was observed that it would be desirable to discuss the implications at the level of Commerce Secretary. After deliberations, the Food Authority considered and approved the draft regulations for alcoholic beverages, along the additions proposed by the CEO, subject to the condition that in the event of any serious trade related implications, the Chairperson would be authorised to decide on the further course of taken i.e. (i) a back reference to the Expert Group on Alcoholic Beverages for reconsideration of any relevant issues, or (ii) proceed with the issue of draft notification for inviting stakeholder comments.

**Agenda Item No. 17.6**

Scheme for association of Central/State Government Agencies, consumers' Organisations, Non-Government Organisations and other Institutions including Government Universities/Colleges working in the area of food safety for undertaking Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Activities on behalf of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)- reg.

The Authority resolved to approve the proposal as proposed in the agenda.

**Agenda Item No. 17.7**

Lease purchase of 60,000 sft. Built-up space (Office space, residential apartments and car parking space) for a period of 30 years by FSSAI for its official use at NBCC Complex, in Kidwai Nagar (East), New Delhi.

The agenda item was discussed in detail. The Chairperson observed that a decision in the matter should be taken keeping in view that no budgetary support would be available from the Government for this purpose. Discussing the alternative options, the Chairperson recalled that while planning the FDA Bhawan, there was a proposal to
construct this building with 8 or 10 storeys and it needed to be examined as to whether there was a feasibility of vertical addition to the existing building. The CEO stated that if two more floors could be constructed, the FSSAI's requirements of office space would be met in the foreseeable future. The issue as to whether the FSSAI could raise Bank Loan for meeting the costs of the proposed acquisition was also raised. After detailed discussions, following decisions were taken:

(i) The JS (Health) would examine as to whether there was any feasibility for vertical expansion of the existing premises by adding a few more floors keeping in view the structural designs and availability of the FAR;

(ii) The FSSAI would firm-up if it was in a position to raise the loans for the new acquisition and as to whether it would be able to service the loan from out of its internal accruals;

(iii) Based on the above, it should be ensured that the withdrawal of application is done at the appropriate stage ensuring that the Earnest Money deposited is not forfeited, in any case.

Agenda Item No. 17.8
Proposal on 'Total Diet Study in Indian Population' by NIN, Hyderabad

(i) The proposal was presented in detail. The various components/features of proposal, proposed to undertaken through the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, at an estimated cost of Rs. 35.83 crores over a 5-year period were presented before the Authority members. It was explained that a 'Total Diet Study for the Indian Population' was critically important for coming out with research based findings on nutrition levels, deficiencies, impact of the contaminants etc. It was further explained that a large number of countries had undertaken 'Total Diet Studies', whereas no such Study had been undertaken for India so far.

(ii) It was agreed that undertaking a Total Diet Study (TDS) would be extremely important. Some members suggested to review the parameters to be studied in the TDS including the list of pesticide residues. It was explained that as the parameters were linked with the cost of the proposal, it could be started with minimum parameters as listed in the proposal and then expanded later on. The members were near unanimous on the merits of the proposal and the need for undertaking the proposed study.
(iii) The Chairperson enquired if the FSSAI had the funds amounting to the estimated project cost of Rs. 35.83 crore available with it for funding the project. The CEO explained that the proposed Project was to be completed over a 5-year period and that the funds would have to be provided through the budgetary grant-in-aid by the Government.

(iii) After detailed deliberations, it was decided to circulate the NIN proposal to all the members for their comments within 15 days. Based on the comments received from the members, and keeping in view that the proposal addresses the wider issues of public health, it may be referred to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare for examining the proposal and deciding either to get the study undertaken through any other Scheme of the Ministry, or for exploring the feasibility of getting the proposed study conducted through the ICMR, or for provision of requisite funds to FSSAI in this behalf. Action in the matter would be taken as per the decision of the Ministry.

**Agenda Item No. 17.9**

*(For Information of the Authority)*

**Agenda Item No. 17.9.1**

**Introduction of self declaration in place of affidavits in respect of (i) PA Division, (ii) Enforcement Division, and (iii) Imports Division**

The Authority took note of the information. However, Ms. Shreya Pandey suggested that the contents of the Self-declarations/ Undertakings be kept strictly as per the affidavits. The CEO explained that the contents of the Self-declarations/ Undertakings had been suitably adjusted, wherever required, as it was subject to review from time to time based on the learnings keeping in view the spirit of the principles laid down in Section 18 and 26 of the Act.

**Agenda item No. 17.9.2**

**Notification of 82 accredited food testing laboratories and Status of parameters for testing:**

The Authority took note of the Notification.

**Agenda item No. 17.9.3**

**Activities of Import Division: (i) Timelines of Import activities from April, 2014 - March, 2015; (ii) Single window clearance system for customs; and (iii) Update on Expansion plans of FSSAI**
(i) The Authority noted the information. The Chairperson observed that timely clearance of import items was engaging serious attention of the Government as part of its initiative on 'Ease of Doing Buiness'. He shared how an effort was being made for seamless integration of the e-Governance applications of different agencies/departments so as to ensure that the FBO did not have to apply through multiple windows. He impressed upon the need for expediting the finalisation of Import Regulations. He referred to the CEO's Report in this behalf and observed that the question as to whether the proposed Import Regulations, on which the FSSAI was currently working, should be draft notified or finally notified, needed to be considered by the members.

(ii) After deliberations, it was decided that the Draft of Import Regulations, as soon as finalised, be circulated amongst the members to seek their views online. Further, depending on the online response of the members, the members resolved to authorise the Chairperson to take a final decision in this behalf.

Agenda item No. 17.9.4

Trainings conducted by FSSAI- status

The Authority noted the information. It was observed that there was need to undertake and further augment the "Training and Capacity Building" initiatives on an ongoing basis.

Agenda item No. 17.9.5

Advisories/Orders issued since the last meeting:

(i) Extension of time period for renewal/conversion of Licenses/Registration of FBOs by 06 months

(ii) Notification of FSSAI's Designated Officers for Central Licensing under Section 36 of FSS Act, 2006

(iii) Inspection of premises before issuance of license.

(iv) Introduction of Category of "Exporting FBOs"

(v) Licensing and Registration of Food Business Operators in Cooperative Institutions.

The information was noted. However, making a reference to agenda notes at Sr. No. 3 qua pre-inspection of FBO premises for grant of Licenses, the Commissioner of Food safety, Himachal Pradesh observed that it may not be advisable to completely dispense with the requirement of pre-inspection of the premises and suggested that it should be kept optional. His attention was drawn to the annexed
copy of the said Order dated 12th February 2015, which was completely in order. It was clarified that the intent of the summary as reflected in the agenda notes was only to re-iterate the Circular dated 12.02.2015, which would be the document that would remain in force. He was satisfied after the above explanation.

17.10 Supplementary Agenda Items:

Supplementary Agenda item No. 17.10.1 Reward Scheme for Whistle-blowers and the Reward Scheme of Rs. 500/-

Keeping in view the information contained in the Agenda Notes and the provisions of section 95 of the Act, the proposal to dispense with the scheme introduced by the FSSAI was approved.

Supplementary Agenda item No. 17.10.2 Amendment of Schedule-1 of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011

The Food Authority considered and approved the proposed amendments in Schedule-1 of the Food Safety and standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Business) Regulations, 2011 along with the proposal to wind up the sub-regional offices at Chandigarh and Lucknow and transfer the staff to the HQ for their deployment in areas of shortage of staff.

Agenda item No. 17.10.3 Discontinuance of Dr. Joseph I. Lewis from the Scientific Panel on Labelling and Claims

The proposal was approved.

Supplementary Agenda item No. 17.10.4 Conduct of Food Analyst Examination

The proposal was explained and approved in principle. As for the institution to which this task should be assigned, it was further decided to authorise the Chairperson to finally approve the institution out of NIFTEM and CFTRI, along with the terms and conditions attendant thereon to whom this responsibility should be assigned.

Supplementary Agenda item No. 17.10.5 Revision of Milk Standards

[Signature]

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The Food Authority considered and approved the revision of milk standards with respect to (A) Fat and Solids Not Fat (SNF) content of cow Milk, (B) inclusion of standards of Camel Milk in FSSR as annexed in the agenda item.

Supplementary Agenda item No. 17.10.6

Standards for Dairy Whitener:

(i) The agenda Item was explained. The CEO, FSSAI drew attention of the members to the Standard recommended in respect of the “Total Added Sugar” for the Dairy Whitener as recommended at 24% by mass as against the level of 18% prescribed in the BIS Standard in this behalf. The issue was discussed in detail. Ms. Shreya Pandey observed that the Industry was currently using this level of sugar and it may not be feasible for the Industry to meet the standard for 18% sugar. She further stated that in any case Dairy Whitener was not a nutrition food. It was observed that the total sugar being added up to this level was in any case substituting the SNF content and could be hazardous for the consumers suffering from diabetes. There was near unanimity that the Sugar level could not be kept at 24% as a standard, which in any case was a health hazard, merely because the industry was manufacturing the product with this level of sugar. It was observed that the Industry would have to suitably modify its manufacturing processes to comply with the prescribed standard, for which some time could be allowed. However, Ms. Shreya Pandey suggested that it may be reviewed after a period of two years.

(ii) Having deliberated on the issue and considering that a review thereof may take its own time, the Authority decided to approve the agenda proposal with the modification that the “Standard of 24% Added Sugar shall stand revised to 18% at the close of two years from the date these Standards for Dairy Whitener come into force”.

17.10.7 Any other agenda with the permission of Chair:

(i) Sh. Vasudev Thakkar raised the issue of legality of the constitution of the ‘Task Force’ for examination of the issue of Product Approvals and drafting of the Product Approval Regulation. His main contention was that the said Task Force had been constituted without the approval of the Authority and hence the same was legally not correct. He further stated that no action should be taken on the report of the Task Force till the same was considered and approved by the
Authority. He further requested that all the documents exchanged or issued in this behalf should be made available to the members.

(ii) The CEO explained the complete background that led to the constitution of the Task Force. He further observed that the Authority meetings take place 3 or 4 times a year and if one were to wait for everything to be approved by the authority, it would not be possible to carry on the day-to-day work. However, he added that wherever the recommendations of any such Task Force or Expert Group or Sub-Committee impinged on policy issues, the matter is always placed before the Authority for its consideration and decision. Coming specifically to the recommendations of the Task Force, of which Sh. Thakkar was also a member, he explained that the Report submitted by the Task Force was being examined and the same would be placed before the Authority for appropriate decisions. The question of implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force would not arise till such time the Authority had considered the matter.

(iii) The Chairman observed that the members had every right to ask for a copy of the Report but asking for all internal communications and those from the government would be going beyond the established protocol. He asked the CEO to provide a copy of the Report to the member concerned. The CEO explained that since Mr. Thakkar was a member of the Task Force, he already had a copy of the Report, which he was carrying with him.

(iv) Dwelling on the subject of the recording of minutes, the CEO clarified that the minutes of any meeting broadly capture the sum and substance of the discussions and deliberations of a meeting and the decisions taken therein and could not be a verbatim reproduction thereof.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all the members present.
List of Participants

A. Members of the Authority:
1. Sh. B.P. Sharma, Chairperson, FSSAI;
2. Sh. Y.S. Malik, CEO/FSSAI and Member Secretary;
3. Sh. K. L. Sharma, Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare;
4. Dr. Reeta Vashishta, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Law & Justice;
5. Sh. U.K. Singh, Jt. Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi;
6. Ms. Anuradha Prasad, Jt. Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries;
7. Dr. G. S. Toteja, Director, Desert Medicine Research Centre (DMRC), ICMR;
8. Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Director, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal;
9. Dr. (Ms.) Lalitha R. Gowda, Retd. Chief Scientist, CFTRI, Mysore;
11. Sh. Rameshwer Sharma, Director, Health Safety and Regulation, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh;
12. Sh. Sukhwinder Singh, Designated Officer, Chandigarh;
13. Sh. Vasudev K. Thakkar, President, 'V' Care Right & Duty NGO;
14. Ms. Shreya Pandey, All India Food Processors' Association;
15. Ms. Meetu Kapur, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII);
16. Sh. Thanglura, Mizoram Consumers' Union, Lalat Chamber;
17. Sh. V. Balasubramaniam, General Secretary, Prawn Farmer Federation of India;

B. Officers of the FSSAI
1. Dr. Meenakshi Singh, Scientist (Standards)
2. Sh. Bimal Dubey, Director (Imports)
3. Sh. Rakesh Chandra Sharma, Director (Enforcement)
4. Sh. Rackesh Kulshrestha, JD(M)
5. Sh. P. Karthikeyan, AD (Regulation)
6. Sh. Rajesh Kumar, Scientist IV(I)
7. Dr. Joseph I Lewis, Consultant

C. Invitee
1. Ms. Vinod Kotwal, Advisor (TRAi)