

AGENDA ITEM NO.4 (B)

Preparedness of States for Online Licensing Registration System

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which consolidates various acts and orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 92 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, FSSAI has notified Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration) Regulation, 2011 under which regulation 2.1.1 makes it mandatory for all Food Business Operators in the country to be registered with the registering authority in accordance with the procedures laid down in the regulation.

Section 31 (2) of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 emphasize that the Food Business Operator shall register them with such authority and in such manner as may be specified by regulations. The Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration) Regulation, 2011 provides that the Designated Officer/ Food Safety Officer or any official in Panchayat, Municipal Corporation or nay other local body or Panchayat in an area will be notified as such by the State Food Safety Commissioner for the purpose of registration. This was done with view to enable State/ UT Government to take a decision in this regard on the basis of obtaining their grass root level situation of the States.

FSSAI would like to know the considered view of State with regard to the authority or officer who should take registration of Food Business Operator.

AGENDA ITEM NO.5 (B)

Capacity Building Programme and Strategy for Food Safety Regulators & other stakeholders

An intensive and appropriately designed training & development regime in relation to Orientation programme, Induction training, comprehensive in-service training and periodic refreshers programmes for staff/officers at different levels of food safety regulators, is regarded as a priority area by FSSAI to realize the vision of a professionally competent and efficient regulatory enforcement of FSS Act, 2006 and has been accordingly built in the Regulations.

Under section 16(3)(h) of the FSS Act, the Authority is expected to provide training programmes of food safety and standards for the stakeholders, industry, regulators and other stakeholders. Training & development efforts need to be appropriately geared as a step in this direction. The training of regulators shall focus on competence needed to be developed based on their roles and responsibilities. It is necessary to equip them with the required skills and competence to perform their role. Training should also enable gradual expansion of their horizon, build capacity to handle higher and more important roles within the organization so that employee grows as a better human being and is enabled to achieve his potential, aligned to the growth and development of the organization.

As per the draft National Training Policy, 2010 it has been mentioned that “The National Training Policy of 1996 had recommended that 1.5 percent of the salary budget be set aside by each Department to be used solely for the purpose of training. Given the likely increase in the need for training by moving to a competency-based system, it is recommended that each Department set aside at least 2.5 percent of its salary budget for training”

As per the clause 2.1.3 of the FSS Rules, 2011, it is specified that the individuals to be considered for appointment of FSO and Designated Officers should have undergone appropriate courses in food safety. Newly recruited Food Safety Officers and

officers appointed as Designated Officers, Adjudicating Officers need to be trained so that they should become fully operational as soon as possible.

Imparting different types of trainings (i.e. Induction Training, Orientation programme, Refresher trainings etc.) to different level of food safety regulators and other stakeholders across the country can be achieved only with the active involvement of State Authorities. It is appropriate that such training facilities are located within the States and adequate capacity built up to provide above trainings on continuous basis to the staff located in various parts of the State. Since States have well equipped training institutions, these can be utilized for imparting these trainings in accordance with the syllabus and training modules prescribed by FSSAI. A food safety core faculty will be put in place which can be used for training purposes. NABL accredited laboratories and other institutions can be utilised for imparting practical training. This is necessary to ensure optimal utilisation of resources and secure the desired impact.

In view of the above, it is proposed to identify training institutions in the States having well equipped training facilities who are willing to build capacity in this area so that the training programmes could be conducted for the officers/stakeholders of the respective States as well as neighbouring States with adequate support from FSSAI.

Requirements/ facilities expected from training institutions in the State.

- The training institutions should have well equipped training halls (25-35 participants) with audio-visual facilities.
- Accommodation facilities for residential programmes (15 days for Adjudicating Officer and 180 days for FSO induction programme and other a week long short term training programmes)
- The training institute should have capability to provide all the logistic support and management assistance to conduct above training programmes.
- To conduct food safety specific training programmes in the training institute there will be lead facilitator and co-facilitator with financial support from the State Govt.
- It is not necessary for both the facilitators to be subject matter specialists, but it is recommended that at least one should be or have significant experience working

with food regulations and have knowledge of various food safety aspects. The co – facilitator should have significant knowledge of training methodologies, training management and impact assessment/evaluation of imparted training etc.

- Initially, FSSAI would provide subject specific experts from the pool of resource persons, however, over the period of time it is expected that Facilitator should establish the network with other institutions to share learning resources, experience and expertise.
- The budgetary provisions to conduct the training programmes for State food safety regulators would be made available to such training institutions as per the National Training Policy recommendations and financial support from FSSAI.

State Governments are requested to explore the above possibilities in their respective States and also provide valuable inputs to augment the above proposal for capacity building of Food safety regulators and other stakeholders across the country.

CAC may discuss the matter and State Commissioners of Food Safety may comment with reference to the training facilities existing in their respective States.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9

Presentation on Sampling Procedure for Microbiological Testing

Presentation by Dr. Dhir Singh, ADG (PFA), FSSAI on Sampling Procedure for Microbiological Testing

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10

Presentation on Risk Management

Presentation by NISG on Risk Management

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11

DRAFT 12TH FIVE YEAR PLAN PROPOSAL OF FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India envisages to adopt an holistic approach that takes care of safety of food in the entire food chain, starting from the farm; creates awareness, among all the stakeholders like producers of primary food, processors, transporters, storage, food handlers and, most importantly, the consumer with effective enforcement mechanism which is prompt, just, transparent and able to induce respect for law.

During the 12th Plan, the thrust of FSSAI is to address these issues and particularly focus on developing science based standards for the food products, remove existing anomalies and grey areas like lack of standards for health supplements, nutraceuticals and many other proprietary foods, review of existing and prescribing new residue limits for pesticides and anti-biotics in various food products, align the food standards to international standards taking into account the public health concerns as it would provide an effective check on quality of imported foods and make the export competitive, develop standards for food for school children, water to be used in processing of foods etc.

The Authority proposes to establish a network of surveillance stations throughout the country that would undertake testing of different types of food articles for adulteration, contamination, health claims, labelling issues etc. and generate 'state of the food' reports on a regular basis which will be analyzed by a national center and a state of the food safety report will be presented to the people and the Government with recommendations for policy interventions.

It is at the same time also proposed to introduce Food Safety Management System (FSMS). The weakest links in both FSMS and enforcement by Government agencies would be lack of adequate number of food testing laboratories of acceptable standards. It is proposed to upgrade existing public laboratories to referral/accredited standards, setup new cluster laboratories for testing of basic parameters for every 4-5 districts for providing easy reach/access for voluntary/public samples besides serving government needs. Ultra modern mobile lab that for use by the State Governments for testing of samples and ensuring safety of food at places of large congregations like festivals, melas convention etc. besides carrying out spot checks in remote markets where it is difficult to collect and transport samples to the labs is also envisaged.

There is need for creation of statutory functionaries like designated officers, adjudicating officers, food safety officers and the support staff on priority with thrust on making the licensing system totally transparent with minimum of discretion. It has been proposed to give funding to the States and UTs for creation of minimum number of posts alongwith minimum infrastructure for establishing these offices within the 12th Plan.

To ensure transparency networking of licensing and registration offices in the country with an on-line system of issuing licenses and registration certificates, e-Kiosk/e-Sewa for registration by small/petty food business operators, provision of GPS based mobile phone system to FSOs is proposed.

The capacity building of a huge organization starting from FSSAI, Central labs, State labs, newly created offices of State Governments, food business operators and other stakeholders is a gigantic task which is proposed to be addressed through a de-centralized system with the active involvement of all the universities with food science capability, training institutions, professional institutes etc.

A comprehensive awareness programme to address different segments of the population and stakeholders with specially tailored messages using appropriate communication vehicles with priority on specially vulnerable sections about issues like misleading claims, interpretation of information on the labels, general awareness about nutritional food, adulterated food etc. is proposed to be undertaken.

FRAME WORK OF 12TH FIVE YEAR PLAN OF FSSAI AT CENTRAL/STATE LEVEL

AT CENTRAL LEVEL

A. CREATING SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SCIENCE BASED STANDARDS

- (i) Establishment of a National Food Science and Risk Assessment Centre(NFSRAC)
- (ii) Up gradation of Central Food Laboratories (CFL) (NABL /GM testing)
 - CFL, Mumbai (new set-up)
 - CFL, Kolkata (up-gradation)
- (iii) Nationwide Food Safety Surveillance network and data collection on regular basis
- (iv) Strengthening Of Food Safety And Standards Authority Of India
 - Existing sanctioned establishment
 - Expansion of scientific wing, imported food testing/screening, additional regional offices, Codex wing etc.
 - Office accommodation (construction of new office building, including NFSTI)
 - Housing (to be taken on lease)

B. FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- (i) Networking of all food testing labs working under FSS Act

C. TRANSPARNCY AND OVERSIGHT

- (i) National Food Safety Helpline
- (ii) Whistle Blower Scheme

D. CAPACITY BUILDING

- (i) National Food Safety Training Institute (NFSTI) (apex institute to do human resource planning for whole country and prepare trainers)
- (ii) Training at NFSTI

E. AWARENESS GENERATION/ IEC

- (i) Awareness Activities and Educational Programmes by FSSAI

- Media
- Non-media (production of educational material, targeted activities for women, youth, children, food manufacturers, processors, handlers, exhibitions etc)

AT STATE LEVEL

A. FOOD SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- (i) Cluster laboratories of accredited standards for every 4-5 districts (one time cost for setting up of 125 laboratories for 625 districts and recurring expenditure for Plan period)
- (ii) Up-gradation of existing 62 Public Food Labs to accredited standards for comprehensive testing facilities as Zonal Labs- one laboratory for every 10 districts
- (iii) Up-gradation of 10 Public Labs to accredited Referral Laboratories
- (iv) 35 Mobile Food Labs for remote area, large public congregations, disease outbreaks etc

B. ENFORCEMENT

- (i) Setting up of enforcement structure in States/UTs (Manpower)
- (ii) One time assistance for infrastructure/operational equipments/facilities for strengthening District Level Food Safety Office for 626 districts

C. TRANSPARNCY AND OVERSIGHT

- (i) Emergency Response and Rapid Alert Centre (State level control room)
- (ii) E-Governance
Inter-connecting all licensing & registration offices and laboratories and introduction of GPS based sample collection system, online licensing.

D. CAPACITY BUILDING

- (i) Trainings by States/UTs

E. AWARENESS GENERATION/ IEC

- (i) Grant to States for IEC Activities (State specific Schemes with emphasis on local language)

Presentation on draft 12th Five Year Plan Proposal of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India by Sh. Sanjay Singh, Deputy Director, FSSAI

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12

Appointment of Registering Authority in States/ UTs - Format of Registration

Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulation 2011 1.2.1 (5) provides that

“Registering Authority means Designated Officer/ Food Safety Officer or nay official in Panchayat, Municipal Corporation or nay other Local Body or Panchayat in an area, notified as such by the State Food Safety Commissioner for the purpose of registration as specified in these Regulations.”

As regards, States/ UTs may indicate their respective strength of enforcement staff. A format of Registration is enclosed hereby. Necessary guidelines as sought by Jammu and Kashmir for Delegation of Power with respect to Registering Authority may also be discussed.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13

Any other item with the approval of Chair

Annexure

1. Format for Monthly reports from States/ UTs for
 - i. Laboratories
 - ii. Details of Food Business Operators

2. Revised checklist in respect of Agenda Item No. 2, "Review of action to be taken by States/ UTs for transition from PFA to Food Safety and Standards Act following the promulgation of FSS Act, 2006 w.e.f. 5th August, 2011