

Press Release

New Delhi, Aug 24, 2023: Shri G. Kamala Vardhana Rao (IAS 1990; Kerala), Secretary to Government of India and CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) reviewed the status of sampling of food products across States/UTs and encouraged States/UTs to ensure compliance with the prescribed standards at the 41st Meeting of Central Advisory Committee (CAC) held under his chairmanship on 24th August, 2023 at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

More than 50 officials, including Commissioners of Food Safety (CFS), representatives from States/UTs, senior officials from FSSAI and nodal Ministries and members representing the Food Industry, Consumers, Agriculture, laboratories and research bodies actively participated in the meeting.

Among the major deliberations at the meeting, it was recommended by the CAC that the food business operators (FBOs) need not to go for annual renewal hereafter, the licenses can be issued for up to 5 years instead of one year on the option of the FBO. This was one of the major requests made by the food industry as a part of Ease of Doing Business.

He also apprised the participants about his meeting held with Executive Officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) at Tirumala, Andhra Pradesh on 23.08.2023 on establishment and strengthening of laboratories, training of food handlers and upgrading the overall canteen infrastructure into modern infrastructure under various Eat Right India initiatives. This will help in testing key raw materials like ghee, milk, spices, etc. used in food preparation.

This initiative will help TTD provide quality and wholesome food to more than 2.5 lakh pilgrims on a daily basis. FSSAI will train the food handlers in hygiene protocols such as Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP).

Shri Rao also encouraged the States/UTs to expedite the identification and implementation of 100 Healthy and Hygienic Food Streets across the country, with the assistance of Government of India.

He stressed upon the importance of Fortified rice for combating micronutrient deficiencies among children and pregnant women, for which awareness will be propagated in rural areas of States by FSSAI.

He requested the states to make efforts to achieve the target of FoSTaC training of 25 lakh FBOs in the next 3 years as announced by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on the occasion of World Food Safety Day (7th June, 2023).
