

FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

PRESS RELEASE

The Central Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting of Food safety and Standards Authority of India was held at New Delhi on 27th Sept 2011.

Commissioner Food Safety, senior officials from State Governments/UT's, Officials of representative Ministries who are members of CAC, Representative of Trade bodies, Experts and Directors of Food Authority participated in the deliberations.

The Food Safety and Standards Act has come into force w.e.f 5th Aug 2011, consequent upon notification of FSS Rules, Regulations 2011. The State governments shared the progress made towards enforcing the various provisions of FSS Act i.e. appointment of Functionaries(Food Safety Officers, Designated Officers, Adjudicating Officers) under the act, constitution of Appellate tribunals, strengthening of Laboratories is under process.

CEO FSSAI, Sh. V.N Gaur, informed that to implement the law in letter and spirit, fund requirements for 12 Plan have been projected to the Government. There are heads under which State shall be called upon to implement schemes viz e-governance, Awareness generation, Trainings and Laboratory Strengthening etc. He informed that there will be special focus on Food Safety plans at the level of local bodies and Panchayat..

It was informed that to make the entire Licensing process transparent and hassle free, FSSAI is introducing online Licensing system throughout the country, in, through common Central software. It is already in testing phase for central licensing and shortly it will start in Delhi Government licensing. He added that eventually full time functionaries will be required at Cutting edge each levels as erstwhile P F Act was ineffective primarily because of diffused responsibility amongst the regulators.

Registration of food vendors /operators is a challenge for which regulations are required to be issued but Registering authority must be within easy reach of the FBO. A Food Safety Helpline (Toll free 1800112100) has become operational however similar structure is desirable at state government level. He shared that a NATIONAL WORKSHOP is proposed in November 2011 for human resources requirements on food safety sector at national level. Top Institutions dealing with Food Safety including industry and auditing agencies will be invited for deliberations.

Professional presentation on Risk Management, Micro Biological testing of Samples, Trainings and Capacity Building and 12th Plan projections were made for information of all.