

File no. HR-29/27/2025-HR-FSSAI
भारतीय खाद्य सुरक्षा और मानक प्राधिकरण
Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
एफडीए भवन, कोटला रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110 002

ईमेल आईडी : estt@fssai.gov.in

19th August,
2025

Order

WHEREAS, the post of Assistant Director (Tech) in pay level-10 was advertised by FSSAI for filling up on direct recruitment basis as per the eligibility criteria mentioned in advertisement No. DR-02/2019 dated 26th March, 2019. One of the criteria for selection to this post was *'out of the total experience sought, two years of experience should be in immediate lower pay level in Central Dearness Allowance, or equivalent industrial dearness allowance scale (as applicable) and in case of candidates working in private sector he or she shall be drawing minimum annual cost to company of Rs 9.7 lakh for last two years.'* For this post, the Pay level-7 was considered as immediate lower pay level by FSSAI and accordingly result was declared on 24.12.2020, offers of appointment were issued, and appointments were made.

WHEREAS, a Writ Petition (Civil) No. 132/2021 was filed in the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi (Learned Single Judge Bench) challenging the selection on the basis of pay level-7. The Hon'ble Court vide judgement dated 4.8.2021 had held *that* the immediate pay level of the aforesaid post is level-9; *that* the selection of Respondent Nos. 3 to 12 vide result notice dated 24.12.2020 was illegal, and consequently selection and appointment of respondents Nos. 3 to 12 (*as detailed below*) was set aside:

Mr./Ms.

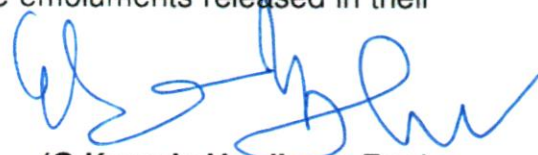
1. AMOL RAJENDRARAO JAGTAP (under suspension w.e.f. 05.05.2024 in the case filed by ACB, CBI, Mumbai)
2. APOORVA SRIVASTAV
3. BHISLE CHETNA BHARAT
4. J. JELIN
5. NAVNEET KAUR (already relieved on 02nd August 2023 after acceptance of her resignation from the services of FSSAI)
6. PAYEL MAJI
7. SONIKA KUMARI
8. SUKANYA PONDUGALA
9. VINITA VERMA
10. SAKSHEE PIPLIYAL

WHEREAS, the above judgement dated 4.8.2021 was challenged in LPA Nos. 253, 286, 288, 309 of 2021 before the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, which were dismissed by the Hon'ble Court vide order 11.4.2023.

WHEREAS, the above judgement dated 11.4.2023 of the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi was challenged in SLP(C) Nos. 8247 & 8264-65 of

2023 before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, which were also dismissed vide order dated 31.7.2025. However, **the Hon'ble Supreme Court has clarified that, if the appellants were appointed in the post pursuant to their selection and have continued as such on account of interim order(s) of the High Court or this court, emoluments attached to that post, thus far released in their favour, shall not be recovered from them.**

NOW THEREFORE, in compliance of the judgement dated 31.7.2025 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and in terms of conditions laid down in their respective offer of appointment, the selection and appointment of abovesaid ten officers is declared illegal and consequently their services (except the service of MS. NAVNEET KAUR who has already been relieved on 02nd August 2023 after acceptance of her resignation from FSSAI) are hereby terminated with effect from 08th August, 2025 (F/N), without any recovery to the emoluments released in their favour from the date of their appointment.



(G Kamala Vardhana Rao)
Chief Executive Officer, FSSAI

To

1. All Officials concerned
2. EDs/Advisors, FSSAI HQ.
3. All Divisional Heads of HQ, Directors of Regional Offices and NFLs of FSSAI
4. DDOs of FSSAI (HQ)/Regional Offices/NFLs (for necessary action)
5. CTO [FSSAI] for uploading on the website of FSSAI and eoffice and other necessary action.
6. Joint Director [Vigilance], FSSAI HQ.

Copy to:

1. Sr. PS to Chairperson, FSSAI
2. OSD to CEO, FSSAI.
3. Under Secretary (FR), MoHFW, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Personal Files of the officers concerned.