

**Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of Central Advisory Committee of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.**

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of Central Advisory Committee of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The list of participants who attended the meeting is at **Annexure I**.

1. Ms Vinod Kotwal, Director (Enforcement), FSSAI extended a warm welcome to all the members and their representatives to the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central Advisory Committee (CAC). It was noted that considerable progress has been made in the rolling out of the Act during the year 2013-14 and road map for the year 2014-15 would be drawn based on the deliberations of the 11<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting.

2. Shri Chandramouli, Chairperson, FSSAI in his keynote address observed that the pace of the licensing and registration work had increased considerably since the last CAC meeting which was held in September 2013. He placed on record his gratitude to the State/UT Governments for their active support in rolling out of the FSS Act and the sincerity with which this work was taken up. Though most of the States/UTs had taken upon themselves the work of licensing and registration with renewed energy but in the case of some States the pace of work was slow. He particularly, commended the 16 States who had taken up the licensing and registration work through the on-line Food Licensing and Registration System (FLRS) with active support of NISG. It was also emphasized that the extension of the date up to 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 is only for renewal and conversion of licenses issued under the repealed Act and Orders.

It was also brought to the notice of CAC that during 2013 Cabinet Secretary had written two letters to the State/UT governments for expediting the implementation of the FSS Act and this reflects the importance that Government was paying to the Act. It was emphasised that while implementing the Act the interest of the consumers should be of foremost concern. The initial years of the implementation of the Act saw issuance of Licenses/ Registrations to FBOs but now the main focus would be on surveillance

activities. It was emphasized that the theme of the coming year should be surveillance-active as well as passive to ensure availability of safe and hygienic food to consumers. While undertaking the surveillance activities, it must be kept in mind on how best to utilize the available resources viz., laboratory infrastructure as well the manpower. Most of the developed nations have a strong surveillance network with focus on intelligence gathering of the movement of food. We would also slowly and steadily move towards having a strong, well-established surveillance network.

Chairperson, FSSAI requested all the members to examine the DO/AO/FSO manuals prepared by FSSAI (which was circulated in the meeting in the CD) and provide their valuable comments/ suggestions, if any. It was observed that no amount of training could be enough for implementing the Act but it has to be a participative exercise. In his concluding remarks, Chairperson, FSSAI emphasized that CAC should be used as a forum for exchange of ideas and CAC members should give their suggestions on the best possible methods for the implementation of the Act.

3. Dr. A.K. Panda, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare's presented the Ministry's perspective on the implementation of FSS Act, 2006. All the Food Business Operators (FBOs) at the Central as well the State/UT level needs to be either licensed or registered. However, keeping in view the huge performance gap amongst the various States, the date was extended. He requested all the State/UT Governments to convene meeting at the Chief Secretary level for effective implementation of the Act. He stressed on the importance of workshops/ trainings/ capacity building programmes for the administrators and IEC activities for the awareness of consumer/ FBOs etc. He emphasized on the need for timely and accurate information from the States on a monthly basis for parliament questions and other monitoring work. It was requested that every State/UT should appoint a nodal officer who would be responsible for sending monthly progress data in the prescribed format to FSSAI so that FSSAI could compile and send the data to Government of India. He further informed that the States/UTs would be granted financial assistance in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan for the food safety infrastructure after the approval of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme by the Ministry of Finance. FSSAI would sign a MoU with the State/UT Govt. wherein the funds would be released on

instalment basis subject to adhering to the laid down timelines/monitorable targets. He thanked all the State/UT governments for their active participation in the implementation of the FSS Act.

4. Shri Samantaray, CEO, FSSAI in his welcome address mentioned that after the last CAC meeting held in September 2013 considerable emphasis had been given on licensing/registration of FBOs. States were also requested to provide information on estimated number of FBOs in their State/UT. Initially, as no data on the number of FBOs was available, a rough estimate of about 5.5 Crore FBOs (i.e. 5% of the total population) was considered. However, based on the estimated numbers provided by the major States on the number of FBOs, it was emerging that the number of FBOs may be in the range of 1.5-2% of the total population i.e. around 1.5 – 2 Crore. Out of this total estimated numbers, approximately 85% of the FBOs would be registered and remaining would be licensed. Around 30 lakh FBOs have been licensed or registered and more effort needs to be put in for the registration of the FBOs. He requested the remaining States/UTs also to complete this exercise of estimation. He appreciated the decision taken by the various States to adopt FLRS and requested the States who have not adopted FLRS or even those who are working on different software to adopt FLRS so that all the data can be harmonised and accessed easily at one point by all concerned to facilitate faster decision making and eliminate the physical handling of applications.

Apart from the 16 States who already adopted FLRS, CEO, FSSAI thanked the State Govt. of Karnataka and Punjab on their decision to adopt FLRS w.e.f 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2014. He also thanked Govt. of Punjab for sanctioning approx. 400 posts to strengthen the food safety structure in the State. Reiterating the point made by the Chairperson, FSSAI in his keynote address, CEO, FSSAI emphasised that surveillance activities would be the focus during 2014-15 and five States who have done excellent surveillance work would be making presentation in the CAC.

CEO, FSSAI drew attention of all the members towards some significant judgements given by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and High Courts. In particular, attention was drawn to the Swami Achyutanand vs. UOI case pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court where

the court had directed that production and sale of synthetic milk should be made punishable by life imprisonment by suitable amendment in the FSS Act. In the matter-writ Petition No. 681 of 2004- Centre for Public Interest Litigation vs. Union of India dated 22<sup>nd</sup>, Oct, 2013 wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed the FSSAI "to gear up their resources with their counterparts in all the States and Union Territories and conduct periodical inspections and monitoring of major fruits and vegetable market, so as to ascertain whether they conform to such standards set by the Act and the Rules". It was also stated in the Judgment that "Penal provisions are also provided in the Act. It is therefore, of utmost importance that the provisions of the Act are properly and effectively implemented so that the State can achieve an appropriate level of human life and health, safeguarding the right of life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India". He also drew attention of the members to the Delhi High court directive to FSSAI on preparation of "guidelines for making available quality and safe food in schools".

He also emphasised the point that the consumers have to be brought to the centre stage. It is estimated that by 2030, 50% of the population would be living in urban areas that would be young and aware about their rights. It is therefore, important that this Act is made more consumer- centric so that their right to safe food is protected. Representatives of the Consumer associations are there in the Authority as well as the CAC. The Food Authority is also working closely with the Department of Consumer Affairs on the issue of increasing consumer awareness. A successful IEC campaign on various facets of Act including consumer awareness was undertaken with Consumer Association of India (CAI) in the State of Tamil Nadu. FSSAI is also tying up with SIRD, UP for an extensive IEC campaign. It would be our endeavour to make this Act a great success.

After the addresses by Chairperson, FSSAI, CEO, FSSAI and JS, MHF&W, discussion on the Agenda points was initiated:

**Agenda Item No.1: Confirmation of minutes of the tenth meeting of the CAC held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2013**

The Committee confirmed the minutes of the tenth meeting of the CAC held on 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2013.

**Agenda Item No.2: Finalization of guidelines for making available quality and safe food in schools**

CEO, FSSAI requested Advisor, FSSAI to inform the CAC about the work done in this regard as the Chair of the expert group.

Advisor, FSSAI as the Chairman of the Expert Group briefed and discussed with the members about the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi directive in writ petition (C) 8568/2010, for conducting study/ survey in schools and framing guidelines for making available quality and safe food in schools. He briefed the members about the constitution of the expert group and the discussions held in the six meetings of the Expert Group. The draft guidelines were finalized by the expert group in its sixth meeting held on 28.2.2014 and were submitted to the CAC as Agenda no. 2 for consideration. He also brought to the notice of the CAC, the following two points of disagreement among the Members of the Expert Group as these are mentioned as footnotes in the draft guidelines;

- a) Some members representing the industry were of the view that the mandate, under the Order of Hon'ble High Court, does not include areas outside schools
- b) Some members – Paediatricians and Nutritionists - were of the view that there should be a ban on most common HFSS Foods in Schools and area within 50 meters

It was also informed that one member of the Expert Group had suggested some changes in the draft guidelines after they were circulated to the CAC as Agenda item no 2. The comments of the member were also circulated in the CAC meeting.

Following were general comments were made by the members on the guidelines points:

- Draft guidelines do not address Nutritional deficiency area
- Draft guidelines is urban centric

- Kitchen lay out should be incorporated in the guidelines
- Restriction on advertisement of the HFSS foods should be incorporated in the draft guidelines
- The term “Junk Food” should not be used
- HFSS foods should be banned in place of restriction / limiting the availability
- What will happen to the license issued within 50 meters nearby area of the schools?
- There should be measurement mechanism for calorie consumption in the draft guidelines

The point-wise reply given by the Chair, Expert group is under:

- Taking into the consideration the Nutritional deficiency area, Sample Menu (at page-12-13) and balanced diet and dietary needs of children have been incorporated in the draft guidelines at page-3-4.
- Survey done by the Nielsen before framing the draft guidelines has covered various schools in urban / sub-urban / rural areas. For easy understanding, visuals have been given in the draft for the benefit of schools in rural areas.
- The matter was discussed in the Expert Group. It was felt that this could depend upon the availability of space and funds. Moreover, due to the lack of availability of kitchens in most of the schools, suggestion for a school canteen policy has been incorporated in the draft guidelines at page-10.
- The issue of promotion of HFSS foods has been addressed in the draft guidelines at page-13.
- The term “HFSS Foods” has been used in the guidelines with consensus of the Members of the Expert Group.
- As FSSAI has standards for these products, it is not feasible to suggest a ban of these products. Hence, restriction / limiting the availability have been agreed to among the Members of the Expert Group.
- Since, the guidelines do not propose a ban on products, hence there will be no issue with the licenses issued or to be issued.

- For this purpose, the sample menu given at page-12 has been quantified for easy understanding in terms of "Katori" etc. The draft guidelines also recommend reviewing the labelling regulations to enable disclosure of all relevant information.

After the general comments, the CAC agreed that the draft guidelines as contained in agenda papers 2 were acceptable and could be submitted to the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. It was also decided that the members of the CAC could send their comments, in writing to FSSAI by 10<sup>th</sup> March 2014, on the draft guidelines as well as the paper circulated on the comments made by one expert member in the CAC. Accordingly the draft Guidelines and the comments received would be submitted to the Hon'ble High Court, Delhi on 12.03.2014.

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Progress of the States/ UTs regarding implementation of FSS Act, 2006.**

CEO, FSSAI stated that the progress reports are the minimum information which a State/UT should send to assess the progress of the State/UT and this would help in formulating further policies to resolve the issues. He further added that the States/UTs should submit the information & data very carefully as the same is being reported to the Parliament and various Committees. He appreciated the fact that the FSCs of Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand were submitting the monthly report regularly. He also commended the States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Karnataka and Kerala for the tremendous work on Licensing /Registration of FBOs since the last CAC. It was requested that all the States who have implemented FLRS should enter the details of the physically issued Licenses/Registrations into the system. This would help in generating accurate MIS reports. He requested FSCs of Haryana and Delhi to speed up the issuance of Licenses/Registrations process.

### **Agenda Item No. 3: Enforcement of FSS Act, 2006**

CEO, FSSAI requested that as the States/UTs who have not yet initiated the online FLRS process should start with online licensing and registration as it will help them to initiate the process at the earliest. Online FLRS is the assistance that had been

provided by FSSAI; so the States should take this advantage. Shri Sanjay Gupta, AD (Enf) presented details about the : manpower in the States/UTs, Progress of FLRS and testing samples collected in States/ UTs for effective implementation of FSS Act, 2006. The presentation also included the States/UTs that have constituted the Steering Committee and Tribunal.

CEO, FSSAI deliberated on the importance of the constitution of Steering Committee and its regular meeting every month under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary. Different issues pertaining to different Departments of the State could be discussed and resolved at these meetings. He requested all State/UT Governments to send a monthly report on the meetings of the Steering Committee. If the State/UT Government desire, the nodal Officers from FSSAI could also participate in the Steering Committee meetings. CEO, FSSAI also emphasised that the lab related data sent by States/UTs should be checked for its accuracy as these are submitted before the Parliament, Committees or before the different Courts as official document of FSSAI.

CEO, FSSAI emphasised that the role of FSO is very important so as far as the implementation of the Act is concerned and the prosecution should only be the last weapon for the implementation of the Act. A brief report about the States/UTs is presented below:

#### **1. Andaman & Nicobar Island**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 3 DO, 18 FSO and 3 AO are notified.
- b) No Food Analyst is notified.
- c) Till date 402 Licenses and 4705 Registrations issued.
- d) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- e) Steering committee is constituted.
- f) One food testing laboratory established which don't have any food analyst.  
Therefore the informal food samples are being tested which has no legal validity.



## **2. Andhra Pradesh**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 32 DO, 46 FSO, 23 AO and 8 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 30,969 Licenses and 94,994 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal is in process.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) Four food testing laboratory established.

## **3. Arunachal Pradesh**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 17 DO, 3 FSO and 17 AO are notified.
- b) Till date 1,154 Licenses and 4,621 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) Services and facilities of Assam state public health laboratory is being utilized and had notified Food Analyst of Assam for the State.

## **4. Assam**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 5 DO, 27 AO, 14 Senior FSO, 27 FSO, and 1 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 3,206 Licenses and 1,898 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal is in process.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) One State food laboratory established.

## **5. Bihar**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 9 DO, 36 AO and 14 FSO are notified.
- b) Till date 7,790 Licenses and 18,842 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal not yet constituted.
- d) Steering committee not yet constituted.
- e) One State food laboratory established.

## **6. Chandigarh**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 1 DO, 1 AO and 3 FSO are notified.
- b) Till date 2,698 Licenses and 306 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal established.
- d) Steering committee constituted.
- e) State food laboratory of Punjab and Haryana are utilised for food analysis.

## **7. Dadara & Nagar Haveli**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 1 DO, 1 AO and 1 FSO are notified.
- b) Till date 697 Licenses and 2,149 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal not established.
- d) Steering committee is not constituted.
- e) State food laboratory of Gujarat are utilised for food analysis. Notified 6 food analyst of Gujarat.

## **8. Delhi**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 8 DO, 15 FSO, 11 AO and 1 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 3,741 Licenses and 5 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Establishment of Steering committee is under process.
- e) One NABL Accredited food testing laboratory is established.

## **9. Goa**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 2 DO, 11 FSO, 2 AO and 2 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 2,069 Licenses and 13,816 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal in process.
- d) Steering Committee not yet constituted.
- e) State has one food testing laboratory but not NABL Accredited.

## **10. Gujarat**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 34 DO, 33 AO, 261 FSO and 10 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 35,843 Licenses and 95,906 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Nine food testing laboratories were notified out of which 2 are NABL Accredited.
- e) The state has gone live in all districts.

## **11. Haryana**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 21 DO, 21 AO, 11 FSO, and 3 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 4,100 Licenses and 8,000 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Establishment of Steering committee is under process.
- e) State has 2 food testing laboratory but not NABL Accredited.

## **12. Himachal Pradesh**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 13 DO, 10 AO, 9 FSO and 1 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 23,374 Licenses and 1,00,419 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Steering committee is establishment.
- e) State has 1 food testing laboratory but not NABL Accredited.

## **13. Jammu & Kashmir**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 25 DO, 22 AO, 87 FSO, and 2 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 6,827 Licenses and 61,116 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is not established.
- d) Steering committee not established.
- e) State has 2 food testing laboratory but not NABL Accredited.

#### **14. Jharkhand**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 24 DO, 24 AO, 11 FSO and 194 MU in-charge working as FSO and are notified.
- b) Till date 5,338 Licenses and 12,680 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal in process.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) State has one food laboratory established but not NABL Accredited.

#### **15. Karnataka**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 36 DO, 76 FSO, 30 AO and 8 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 21,443 Licenses and 84,188 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal is in process.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) State has five food laboratories.
- f) Went online with FLRS on 6-3-2014.

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#### **16. Kerala**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 14 DO, 21 AO, 78 FSO and 8 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 28,924 Licenses and 1,62,854 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal is in process.
- d) Constitution of Steering committee under process.
- e) Three State food laboratories and one District laboratory established but are not NABL Accredited.

#### **17. Madhya Pradesh**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 51 DO, 184 FSO, 51 AO and 1 Food Analyst notified.
- b) Till date 29,949 Licenses and 2,53,573 Registrations issued.

- c) Appellate Tribunal is established, presiding officer to be appointed.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) One State food laboratory is established.

#### **18. Maharashtra**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 62 DO, 8 AO, 265 FSO+ 33 local bodies and 37 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 1, 51,057 Licenses and 5, 35,309 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal established (on temporary basis).
- d) Steering Committees established.
- e) There are 16 notified food testing laboratories.

#### **19. Manipur**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 9 DO, 9 FSO, 9 AO and 1 food analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 394 Licenses and 2,350 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal in process.
- d) Steering committee is constituted
- e) Two State food laboratories established but not NABL Accredited.

#### **20. Meghalaya**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 1 Deputy Commissioner, 3 DO, 7 AO and 7 FSO are notified.
- b) Till date 1,461 Registrations and 1,193 Licenses issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Steering committee constituted at State and District level.
- e) Food analyst post vacant.

#### **21. Nagaland**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 11 DO, 11 AO, 8 FSO notified and 1 food analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 280 Licenses and 3,110 Registrations issued.

- c) Appellate Tribunal not established.
- d) Steering committee not constituted.
- e) One food testing laboratory notified.

## **22. Odisha**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 37 DO, 37 AO and 9 FSO are notified.
- b) Till date 4,722 Licenses and 6,877 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Establishment of Steering committee is under process.
- e) One food testing laboratory notified but not NABL accredited.
- f) Non availability of food analyst creating problems in food sample analysis.

## **23. Punjab**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 22 DO, 22 AO, 45 FSO and 1 food analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 10,860 Licenses and 85,400 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) One food testing laboratories established but not NABL accredited.

## **24. Puducherry**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 2 AO, 1 DO, 2 FSO and 1 food analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 1,028 Registrations and 352 Licenses issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal is under process.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) One food testing laboratory established but not NABL accredited.

## **25. Rajasthan**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 42 DO, 88 FSO, 48 AO and 6 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 55,425 Licenses and 1, 55,122 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal in process.

- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) Six state food laboratories established.

#### **26. Sikkim**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 2 DO and 4 AO are notified.
- b) Till date 1, 959 Registrations and 360 Licenses issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal not yet established
- d) Steering committee is constituted.

#### **27. Tamil Nadu**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 32 DO, 32 AO, 584 FSO and 6 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 66,605 Licenses and 3, 46,581 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is not yet established.
- d) Establishment of Steering committee is under process.
- e) Six State food laboratories established but none of them is NABL Accredited.

#### **28. Tripura**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 9 DO, 8 AO and 4 FSO are notified.
- b) Till date 1,161 Licenses and 3, 848 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is established.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) One State food laboratories established.

#### **29. Uttarakhand**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 14 DO, 29 FSO, 13 AO and 1 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 4,405 Licenses and 31,333 Registrations issued.
- c) Establishment of Appellate Tribunal is in process.
- d) Steering committee constituted.
- e) One State food laboratory established.

### **30. Uttar Pradesh**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 75 DO, 75 AO, 287 FSO and 3 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 29,142 Licenses and 2, 28,328 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal is establishment.
- d) Steering committee is constituted.
- e) Five food testing laboratories working out of total six laboratories.

### **31. West Bengal**

- a) Food Safety Commissioner, 20 DO, 49 FSO, 19 AO and 2 Food Analyst are notified.
- b) Till date 8,788 Licenses and 26,476 Registrations issued.
- c) Appellate Tribunal not yet established.
- d) Steering committee not yet constituted.
- e) One State food laboratory was established but not NABL Accredited.

### **Agenda Item No. 5: Licensing/Registration**

CEO, FSSAI suggested that all the states who have not yet initiated the process should start with online licensing and registration as it will help them to accelerate the process. It was decided in the meeting that while signing the MoU for the release of funds under 12th Plan, an important criteria will be the adoption of Online FLRS in States/ UTs. The absence of representatives from Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Manipur, Mizoram and Sikkim was noted.

### **Agenda Item No. 6: Implementation of FLRS**

CEO, FSSAI reiterated that FLRS is a way to overcome the shortage of manpower and to reduce the difficulties faced by FBOs and Consumers. He requested all the States/UTs to adopt the FLRS to get benefits of 12<sup>th</sup> five year plan. He also suggested for making the registration process more consumers friendly. He cited the example of Madhya Pradesh where the registered cyber cafes were helping to undertake the registration process by charging a nominal fee of only Rs 20. CEO,



FSSAI also drew the attention of the CAC towards the version .3 of FLRS which is more FBO/consumer friendly.

A presentation was made by Shri Raghu Guda, General Manager, NISG, Hyderabad on the progress of online licensing and registration in different States and also the progress of Central Licensing of the different Regional Offices of FSSAI. He also briefed about the salient features of the Version .3 of FLRS. He informed the chair that through the FLRS version .3, the FSC could assess the performance through the online MIS system and the food business operators could see the status of their application. With regard to the query related to the payment gateway from Himachal Pradesh, Shri Raghu Guda informed that FSSAI has tied up with Bank of Baroda for their payment gateway for all modes of on-line payment. From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 payment in FLRS would be received on-line only.

Shri Desikan enquired whether complaints can be registered with the online FLRS or not. In reply CEO, FSSAI informed that FSSAI is planning to set up an online complaint system shortly.

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**Agenda Item No. 7: Guidelines and Surveillance plan for Fruits and Vegetables, soft Drinks and Ready to serve beverages**

CEO, FSSAI reminded all States/UTs about the Hon'ble Supreme Court order and requested all States and UTs to set up strong surveillance system and to monitor all the food items regularly. He also requested them to send monthly reports, which could be compiled at FSSAI and further submitted to Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**Agenda Item No. 8: Committee on Surveillance Plan for States/UTs**

Food safety Commissioners from Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala and Goa made presentations on the surveillance activities carried out by their respective States.

**GUJARAT** The presentation was made by Dr. Dipika Chauhan, Deputy Food Safety Commissioner, Gujarat. The salient features of the presentation were:-

- Report of the food samples analysed from period of 01.01.2013 to 31.12.2013 depicting that about 167 samples were declared unsafe out of 22,383 numbers of samples analysed.
- Surveillance activities was categorised into 2 types as (i) **Active surveillance:** Various category surveillance samples taken from Food Business Operators, sent to laboratory for testing and undertake inspection of food premises for reporting to DO and (ii) **Passive surveillance:** Take a normal round of markets and try to study kinds of practices being followed by FBOs. This kind of survey could be done by any official. They also have a toll free number: 1800 – 233 - 5500 and a complaint module: <http://www.gujhealth.gov.in/complaint> for registering complaints.
- Surveillance plan was made by dividing food into 17 broad categories and was performed in various regions of Gujarat. Out of 1688 surveillance samples analyzed 76 samples were found to be nonconforming to standards.

**TAMILNADU:** The presentation was made by Shri. Kumar A. Jayant, Food Safety Commissioner, Tamil Nadu. The salient features of the presentation were:-

- All 32 AOs and DOs and around 530 FSOs have completed training.
- Approximately 52.8% of the State Licensing and Registration has been completed so far.
- There are 6 state food laboratories but only one microbiologist.
- The main activities related to Surveillance were:
  - Inspection of Noon Meal Centres to ensure Hygiene/Sanitation in food preparation and quality of raw food materials at store.
  - Awareness Meeting of Food Vendors/ Caterers /Consumers etc. on the importance Quality Food
  - Inspecting Packaged Drinking Water Units for ensuring necessary requirements under Food Safety Act.
  - Strict monitoring of the Ban Order on Gutka and Pan Masala.

- The department has lifted and analysed 1612 samples of various food items and out of that 785 samples were found to be misbranded/unsafe i.e. 49%.

**MAHARASHTRA:** The presentation was made by Shri Mahesh Zagade, Food safety Commissioner, Maharashtra. The salient features of the presentation were:-

- A statistical report on the surveillance samples lifted by the concerned Officers in their State was presented. He emphasized on the need for having all the parameters checked as per the FSS (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011 whether the sample was for regular testing purpose or for surveillance purpose.
- The Surveillance plan of Maharashtra covers-
  - **For Fruits and Vegetables** - Minimum 5 sample of fruits and 5 samples of Vegetable must be randomly drawn from each division quarterly (Once in 3 months January/April/July). At least 2 samples of this (One fruit are vegetable) must be drawn as per Sec. 38(1)(a).
  - **For Ready to serve Fruit Beverages** - Minimum 5 sample of Ready to serve Fruit Beverages from each division randomly must be collected, once in a 3 months (January/April/July/October). At least a samples of each RTSB must be drawn as per Sec. 38(1)(a).
  - **For Carbonated Beverages** - Minimum 5 sample of Carbonated Beverages from each division randomly must be collected, once in a 3 months (January/April/July/October). At least 2 samples of each carbonated beverage must be drawn as per Sec. 38(1)(a).

**KERALA:** The presentation was made Shri Anil Kumar, Assistant Food Safety Commissioner, Kerala. He informed that surveillance is planned on sensitive areas like milk, fruits, vegetables, fish, meat etc. He briefed about the Surveillance Activities conducted by the State from April, 2013 to February, 2014 as below:

- Out of 43 surveillance samples of fish, presence of formalin was detected in some cases.

- 85 nos. of fruits & vegetable samples were tested for pesticides and all were found to be within norms.
- 73 samples of drinking water supplied in Tankers in urban as well as rural areas of the state by private agencies were tested and presence of *coliform* bacteria was detected in some cases.
- Number of 68 inspections conducted for ice factory; presence of Ammonia and *coliform* was detected in 23 cases. Thereafter, these factories were closed down.
- 638 juice shops were inspected and notices were served on 168 shops and 38 shops were closed.
- 32 milk samples were collected under surveillance plan and all were found within norms.
- Preventive actions were taken to prevent the adulteration of coconut oil with palm kernel oil. These tankers were seized and the License of the Consignee firms was suspended.
- Adulteration of mineral oil in pepper was detected in 703 samples out of 750 samples. Matter is pending before Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

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**GOA:** The Presentation was made Shri Salim A. Veljee, Commissioner Food Safety, Goa. He presented the surveillance plan made by the State which covers the following points:-

- Surveillance over canteen/ kitchens being operated in Aguada Jail; consequent to incidence of food poisoning amongst jail inmates.
- Surveillance over food stalls being operated at commercial exhibitions /Consumer fairs / religious sites, etc.
- Control of Gutka and other tobacco containing food articles under the Goa Public Health (Amendment) Act, 2005.
- Un-labelled food articles.
- Quality checks on edible oils, milk, milk products, and other food products.
- Consumer Awareness / Lectures to Consumer Organizations / consumers / Colleges & school Principals.
- Cleanliness / hygienic & sanitation conditions guidelines for FBO's uploaded

on Directorate's website [www.dfda.goa.gov.in](http://www.dfda.goa.gov.in)

All the presentations were highly appreciated by all the participants. It was decided that a committee consisting of FSCs from the States of Maharashtra, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Assam would be constituted to suggest a structured programme for taking up surveillance activities including suggesting SOPs. An officer from FSSAI would coordinate the Committee working. The Committee may submit its report within one month of its formal notification.

#### **Agenda Item No. 9: Organisational Structure in States/UTs**

Ms Vinod Kotwal, Director (Enforcement) briefed the CAC about the work done by the Committee which was constituted in the last CAC meeting comprising of FSCs from Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for developing the structure and modalities to standardize the organisational structure in States/UTs. The draft structure developed by the Committee was presented before the CAC for comments. The CAC members commented on the parameters that may be used for determining the manpower viz., geographical parameter or the number of FBOS. After much deliberations, it was concluded the Committee would re-examine the draft proposed organisational structure based on the points raised in the meeting. States/UTs may furnish their comments in writing to FSSAI, which would be discussed in the next meeting of the Committee constituted for the said purpose. CEO FSSAI further added that after finalisation of the model organisational structure, it would be officially forwarded to the Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs and this structure would also be part of the MoU signed between FSSAI and States/UTs for releasing funds in 12<sup>th</sup> Plan Scheme.

#### **Agenda Item No. 10: Training and capacity building**

CEO, FSSAI offered FSSAI's assistance to States/UTs for any kind of training /capacity building programmes. In reply to the query raised w.r.t. the eligibility criteria for faculty in ToT programme; it was clarified that the eligibility criteria will be conveyed to the State governments.

**Agenda Item No. 11: Current status of harmonisation of India's food Standards with Codex Standards and other international best practices**

Advisor, FSSAI briefed CAC about the current status of harmonisation of India's food Standards with Codex Standards and other international best practices He informed that currently the proposed harmonised standards were being assessed by various Scientific panels in the Authority and the approved draft from FSSAI would be expected to submitted to WTO by July, 2014 and final notification by December, 2014.

Shri Desikan raised a query that the standards are not with Indian scenario since many of the energy drinks have high sugar, high caffeine etc. In reply CEO, FSSAI informed that draft standards on energy drinks were being finalised by Scientific Panel at FSSAI.

**Agenda item No. 12: Any other Agenda with the permission of Chair**

Nil

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**Actionable Points emerging from the meeting:**

Based on the discussions held during the meeting the following actionable points emerged:

1. Food Safety Commissioners were requested to submit their comments on the guidelines and the comments received from one of the experts on "Draft guidelines for making available quality & safe foods in schools" to FSSAI by 10<sup>th</sup>, March, 2014 through e-mail/ fax on priority basis.
2. A committee consisting of Food Safety Commissioner of Tamil Nadu, Goa, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Maharashtra was constituted to finalize a structured program of surveillance and SOPs within a month of its formal notification.
3. Suggestions on organisational structure will be considered and the draft organisational structure will be re-examined by the committee constituted for the purpose in the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of CAC.

4. "Surveillance for Safe food will be the cornerstone of enforcement during 2014-15.
5. IEC activities for consumer & FBOs have to be taken up in a big manner.
6. While signing the MoU for the release of funds under 12th Plan, important criteria will be the adoption of Online FLRS in States/ UTs.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.