

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 117
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH FEBRUARY, 2018
GM FOOD REGULATIONS**

***117. SHRI SUNIL JAKHAR:**

Will the **Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Genetically Modified (GM) foods are not being regulated by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee anymore and such regulation has been handed over to the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FSSAI has not yet notified its standards for GM foods and there is a vacuum in regulation of GM foods at present;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the necessary steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 117* FOR 9TH FEBRUARY, 2018**

(a) to (e): Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has informed that Genetically Engineered Organisms (GEOs) or Living Modified Organisms (LMOs), intended for direct use as food or for processing as food, would continue to first require approval from Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for environmental safety and then require approval of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for food safety. Food or Processed food containing genetically modified ingredients produced from but not containing LMOs or GEOs would require approval of FSSAI. FSSAI has also informed that no such standards for Genetically Modified foods have been laid down/notified. However, even in the absence of specific standards for Genetically Modified (GM) foods, as per Section 22 of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, GM foods are not allowed to be manufactured, imported or sold in the country.

Enforcement of the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made there under, primarily rests with the State/UT Governments. Regular surveillance, monitoring, inspection and sampling of food products are being done by the Officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States and Union Territories to check compliance of the provisions laid down under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made there under. In cases where the food samples are found to be non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions under FSS Act, 2006. Directions have been issued to State/UT Governments from time to time for taking steps for effective steps for implementation and enforcement of the FSS Act, Rules and Regulations made there under.
