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Food safety in India: Current status

Food safety has become a major global concern. Increased incidences of food borne illnesses are threatening the food security of millions of people worldwide. In order to establish and implement a comprehensive food safety system, it is necessary for a country to enact and enforce appropriate laws and regulations. Food, safety standards can be defined as the requirements and practices for food producers manufacturers, handlers, processors, food supply outlets and food consumers for the purpose of ensuring food safety in terms of hygiene and health. India being a developing country needs to focus on food safety more rigorously. Hence, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments. Various central Acts like Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, Fruit Products Order, 1955, Meat Food Products Order, 1973, Vegetable Oil Products (Control) Order, 1947, Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order 1988, Solvent Extracted Oil, De-Oiled Meal and Edible Flour (Control) Order, 1967, Milk and Milk Products Order, 1992 etc. have been repealed and amalgamated under the Food Safety and Standard Act. The Act has also established a single reference point for all matters relating to food safety and standards, by moving from multi- level, multi- departmental control to a single line of command. To this effect, the Act has established an independent statutory Authority – the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India with head office at Delhi. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the State Food Safety Authorities are responsible for enforcing various provisions of the Act.

Biography

N N Zade has completed his PhD in 1995 from Chaudhari Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar in Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology. He has published more than 150 research papers in reputed journals. He has guided more than 15 post graduate students in Veterinary Public Health. He has more than 30 years of teaching, research and extension experience to his credit. Presently he is working as Director of Extension Education and Training at Maharashtra Animal & Fishery Sciences University, Nagpur. He is a fellow of Indian Association of Veterinary Public Health Specialists and member of various professional bodies. He is also an expert member in the panel of Food Safety and Standard Authority of India.

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