**Role of FSSAI in Food Safety in India**

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**Abstract**

In India the food and food industry play an important role in day today life of every person. the food business has a rapid growth in the economy in recent times. Due to their work and time management, people started to adopt and eat the processed food and ready to eat foods. This is one of the main reasons to the drastically growth in food industry and by improving the processing and packaging methods. So, to provide safe and nutritious food Government of India decided to pass a bill on food safety act(i.e.,) Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2006. They have many laws and regulation for food industry to provide safe, healthy and nutritious food. After the introduction of FSSAI in India every food business sector must follow the law and regulation framed by FSSAI. This article explains the role of FSSAI in food safety in India.

**Introduction:**

Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) have been established under Food Safety and Standard Act 2006 and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare by Government of India. The FSSAI has a greatest role in the food industry in production and protecting consumer’s health by means of laws and regulation. The main head quarter of FSSAI is in New Delhi. The authority of FSSAI has been distributed through India by 6 regional offices which are located in Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin and Chennai. the FSSAI has notified 14 referral laboratories and 72 state laboratories and 112 labs accredited by NABL throughout the India. The main aim of FSSAI is to produce safe and nutritious food to consumer by all means. The vision of FSSAI is“Build a new India by enabling citizens to have a safe and nutritious food as to prevent diseases and lead a healthy and happy life.” And the mission of FSSAI is “Set globally benchmarked standard of food and encourage and ensure food business to follow these standard and good manufacturing and hygiene practices and finally enable citizen to eat safe and eat right.

**History of Food law in India:**

Before the implementation of FSSAI the Indian Government has another act to produce safe food and protect consumer’s health (i.e.;) Prevention of Food Adulteration act 1954(PFA) and in later years it was changed and replaced by FSSA act,2006. After the implementation of FSS act it replaced many laws and regulation which was already handling the foos safety and its related issues:

* PFA act,1954
* Fruit Product Order, 1955
* Meat Food Product Order, 1973
* Vegetable oil Product Order, 1947
* Edible Oil Packaging (regulation) Order, 1988
* Milk and milk product Order, 1992
* Solvent Extract oil, Deoiled meal and Edible flour (control) Order, 1967
* Essential commodities act, 1955

These 8 laws are used to produce safe food before the implementation of FSSAI. In order to make everything under one body the government implemented the FSSAI act.

**Framework of FSSAI:**

The FSSAI has formed and planned some regulatory framework:

* To provide training session for the people in food business sector.
* To promote general awareness about food safety and standard.
* Framing of procedures and guidelines for the accreditation laboratories.
* By contributing to the development of international standard for food and sanitary.
* To provide scientific advice and technical support to Central and State Government while framing the laws and regulation regarding the food safety and nutrition.
* By creating an network across the country so that the website can be used by every person to get detailed information on the product and create the awareness about the food safety.
* Collect and examine the data of food samples regarding the contamination in foods, residues of various substances which contaminates the food products.

**Organisational Structure of FSSAI:**

The FSSAI has a Chairperson and Chief-executive Officer and other 22 member of the organisational board. The chairperson will be directly appointed by central government. The other members of FSSAI are:

* Food Safety Commissioner
* Food Safety Officers
* Food analysers
* Designated Officers
* Laboratories.

**Internal administrative:**

The FSSAI have set of standard and regulation to perform and produce a safe food.it has so many functions which will be performed by different division of FSSAI:

* Standard division
* Food Safety and Standard management division
* Regulatory compliance division
* Quality assurance division
* Import division
* Training division
* Information education committee division
* Risk assessment and research development
* Regulation and CODEX division
* Legal division
* General administrative division
* HR division
* Finance & account division
* IT division

**Food safety and standard regulation:**

The FSSAI was in the process of the development of food safety since 2006. The process including the technological development in food science, new product development and additives and identifying the risk and find the solution. So, they have determined under the food safety and standard act regulation2011:

* Licensing and registration, 2011
* Food product standard and food additives, 2011
* Prohibition and restriction sales,2011
* Packaging and labelling, 2011
* Contaminants, toxin and residues, 2011
* Food recall procedures, 2011
* Laboratory and sampling analysis, 2011
* Import regulation, 2017
* Organic food regulation, 2017
* Alcoholic beverages regulation, 2018
* Food fortification regulation, 2018
* Food safety auditing, 2018
* Regulation and notification laboratories, 2018
* Packaging regulation, 2018
* Recovery and distribution of surplus food regulation, 2018.

As for the food product the FSSAI prescribed some:

* Milk and its product
* Vegetables and fruit product
* Cereals and pulses
* Meat and its product
* Fish product
* Sweets and confectionary
* Salts, spices and condiments
* Beverages
* Proprietary food
* Irradiated food products.

**FSSAI Initiatives:**

The FSSAI has been taken some steps in India to produce safe food and protect the consumers health.

* Eat right India- It build upon two pillars “Eat Healthy” and “Eat Safe”. It aim is to enable, encourage the citizen to improve their health.
* FSSAI books- These book have been classified into different types: “The Orange Book”( used for SNF @ workplace), “The Pink Book”( SNF@ home), “The Yellow Book”(SNF @ schools for parents, student and as well as teacher).
* Eat right mela- It is an initiatives step all over India to conduct food exhibition to tastes different kind of street food, upcoming innovation in food industry and FSSAI.
* Jaivik Bharath- It is portal for Indian organic food which is implemented by FSSAI, APDEA and organic food standard
* FOSTAC- Food Safety Training and Certification Course` for the food business sector people who are all intended to work and to create awareness program.
* SNF- It is about safe and nutritious food at home, school and offices. It will give guidelines to prepare safe and healthy foods.

**Conclusion:**

For the last few years, the country has growth in population as well as economy. As the population increases the need of food also increases. The demand of food will increases in variety of food. As we all know that theIndia witnessed one of the most food safety controversy of most popular food brand Nestle’s Maggie which was declared unsafe and was bannedimmediately. This incident is not unique in India like Maggi even Coke had faced similar issues and Aachi masala in few years.One of theaims of this article is to understand the growing significance of food safety in India. It is to identify three main reasons for the growing importance of food safety issues in India.

1. It is the changes in food habit. People are tending to start eatingstreet and junk food which is resulting in greater consumer awareness of hygiene and safety.
2. It isthe availability of Processed and ready-to-eatfood products which are availablethrough supermarkets.
3. The main reason isthe awareness of consumer right to safe food quality to saty healthy and free from food borne diseases.

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