

Open to changes in new standards for food supplements: FSSAI

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Food regulator FSSAI today assured the food supplements and nutraceuticals industry that it is open to making changes in the new standards to support growth of the sector, but without compromising on consumers interest.

The Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations was issued last December. The Food Business Operators (FBOs) need to comply with these standards by January 1, 2018.

Addressing a Assocham conference on nutraceuticals, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal expressed concern over the increasing number of spurious food supplement products in the market.

"We released standards on food supplements and nutraceuticals few months ago. There were some concerns

from the industry but we went ahead and released the standards. But our effort is not to cast them in stone as these are evolving standards," Agarwal said.

"I want to assure the industry that if there are concerns, we are still open to change that. We have five-six months time before this regulations come in force. So, hopefully, we will iron out differences," he said.

On the sidelines, the FSSAI CEO said that it has got many representation from the industry seeking some changes in the regulations related to inclusion of ingredients.

"Food supplements is a difficult sector to regulate. But for us consumers interest is paramount and non-negotiable," he said, asking manufacturers to be cautious in declaring any claims about the products.

The FSSAI has set up a technical panel, which includes representation from industry as well, to prepare a framework for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).

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Spurious nutraceuticals worry govt

By **Mail Today Bureau** in New Delhi

FOOD Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) CEO Pawan Kumar Agarwal on Thursday expressed concern over the increasing number of spurious food supplement products in the market.

Stating that a large number of spurious products are available in the market, he said there is no robust framework for testing of food supplement products.

"We released standards on food supplements and nutraceuticals a few months ago. There were some concerns from the industry but we went ahead and released the standards. But our effort is not to cast them in stone as these are evolving standards," Agarwal said.

Addressing an Assocham conference on nutraceuticals he said, "I want to assure the industry that if there are concerns, we are still open to change that. We have 5-6 months time before these regulations come into force. So, hopefully, we will iron out the differences," he said.

The FSSAI CEO told journalists that the

regulator had got many representations from the industry seeking some changes in the regulations related to inclusion of ingredients. Food supplements is a difficult sector to regulate. But for us consumer interest is paramount and non-negotiable, he said, asking manufacturers to be cautious in declaring any claims about the products.

FSSAI tells industry consumer interest is paramount

FSSAI has set up a technical panel, which includes representation from industry as well, to prepare a framework for Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). We do hope that it will bring greater clarity to have a more robust ecosystem for manufacturing, processing and distribution of food supplements in the country, he said.

Agarwal said there is immense opportunity in this industry, but cautioned that bad name to food supplements sector by few

dubious players can hamper the growth of this sunrise industry.

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Speaking at the event, Food Processing Secretary JP Meena said the size of this industry is currently USD 3-4 billion and is growing at 20 per cent.

He said there is a great potential for this sector as the market is huge for these products in India as well as overseas.

However, Meena said there is a need to keep the price of food supplements and nutraceuticals at an affordable level.

He also spoke about challenges before the sector and said that consumer confidence about these products is still to be gained.

Industry should be in a position to verify claims made about these products through evidence, he said, adding that traceability is important.

■ 'Open to Changes in Food Supplements Standards'



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' Open to changes for food supplements: FSSAI

FOOD REGULATOR FSSAI on Thursday assured the food supplements and nutraceuticals industry that it is open to making changes in the new standards to support growth of the sector, but without compromising on consumers interest. The Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations was issued last December. Food Business Operators (FBOs) need to comply with these standards by January 1, 2018.

EPFO's ETF investment to exceed ₹45k cr by March-end: Dattatreya

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
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RETIREMENT FUND BODY EPFO's investment in stocks through exchange-traded funds (ETFs) would cross the ₹45,000-crore mark by the end of this fiscal, labour minister Bandaru Dattatreya said on Thursday.

"In the exchange traded funds, we have increased (investment) from 10% to 15%. With this, this year alone, it may go in totality to ₹45,000 crore, and I feel (that) the rate of return last year was 13.3% (from ETFs)," Dattatreya said on the sidelines of an Assocham event here.

"The markets are good and let's see the situation, but it is an encouraging one. That's why we have increased (investment)," he said.

As of April 21 this year, the stock investment stood at ₹21,559 crore. The EPFO invested ₹6,577 crore in 2015-16 and ₹14,982 crore in 2016-17.

Dattatreya also said the ministry is working on consolidating 44 labour codes into four in order to simplify them.



The four codes pertain to labour, industrial relations, social security and welfare and safety and working conditions.

Besides, he said the government plans to create 65 million jobs by 2026 in the auto sector alone.

Speaking on the occasion, secretary, Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, Girish Shankar said there is a huge gap the auto industry must address to ensure Make in India delivers. Original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) need to make substantial

investment in engineering R&D for designing and developing in India so that India graduates to a truly auto engineering hub.

"We request the auto majors to consider this seriously and fast enough. Also, suggest to us as to how to support this through an appropriate policy framework. We are already working towards this direction," he said.

The ministry has finalised the net automotive mission plan (AMP) 2016-26, he said, adding that AMP 2026 is a combined effort of the central government and the industry.

It also seeks to define the trajectory of evolution of the automotive ecosystem in India including the glide path of specific regulations and policies that govern a wide range of parameters affecting the industry.

"As an outcome of the AMP 2026, we are planning that the Indian automotive industry will grow 3.5-4 times in value from its current output of around ₹4,64,000 crore in 2015 to about ₹16,16,000-18,89,500 crore by 2026, considering an average GDP growth ranging between 5.8% and 7.5% during the period," he said.

