

FSSAI regulations for nutraceuticals reach final notification stage

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New Delhi: The government is focussed upon harnessing the strength of India's ancient medicinal practices based on traditional health systems to get more and more export value, union minister of state for Science and Technology. Mr Y S Chowdary mentioned at an ASSOCHAM event held in New Delhi on July 05, 2016.

"The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has been talking in a very focused manner to harness our ancient values more and more to get more export value, this is not a new subject for India but requires us to stay focussed therefore we should start getting this to the ground level," said Mr Chowdary while inaugurating 'ASSOCHAM National Symposium on Nutraceuticals, Herbals and Functional foods.'

"Nutraceuticals has been part of India's ancient values and strength but unfortunately this particular industry has not been getting enough support," said Mr Chowdary.

"In our country, all these herbal and natural products need to become the first in line not for curative

but for prevention purposes,” added the minister.

In his address at the ASSOCHAM conference, Mr Kumar Anil, advisor (standards), Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said that regulations for nutraceuticals industry have reached the final notification stage.

“We had realised the need for establishing standards earlier on and initiated the process four years ago, today I am happy to inform that these regulations have reached the final notification stage,” said Mr Kumar.

“The regulations which have been framed under Section 22 of the Food Safety and Standards Act has been titled – Food Safety and Standards for food for health supplements, nutraceuticals, food for special dietary use, food for special medical purposes, functional food and normal food regulations 2016,” he said while addressing the event on behalf of Mr Pawan Kumar Agarwal, chief executive officer (CEO), FSSAI. Mr Kumar said that these regulations have been framed to provide a level playing field to all stakeholders in the nutraceuticals industry.

“These regulations are very comprehensive and provide for manufacture and sale of food for special health supplements, nutraceuticals, special dietary use, special medical purposes, functional food and normal food,” he added.

It provides general conditions for manufacture and sale of these foods besides providing chapter-wise details regarding essential composition, requirements related to claims, labelling, permitted use of additives and limits of contaminants, toxins and residues.

“The regulations also provide for various schedules dealing with vitamins, minerals, recommended diet, daily allowance, list of ingredients of plants, botanical storages, probiotics, prebiotics, besides it also has a comprehensive schedule of additives which is further divided into various sub-categories,” said Mr Kumar.

He informed that for any new ingredients, plants or botanicals to be added to the list, these schedules offer any deletion if need be. “FSSAI intends to review these regulations on a regular basis as this exercise will help it in further evolving these regulations as per the stakeholders’ requirement.”

“These regulations offer for tremendous scope for evaluation and application for industry’s benefit,” further said Mr Kumar.