A sum of Rs. 500 crore has been allocated for upgrading and modernising the food testing laboratories that serve the requirements of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), said its Chief Executive Officer Pawan Kumar Agarwal here on Friday.

Mr. Agarwal was speaking to presspersons after an interaction session that the Food Safety authorities had with food item manufacturers and hoteliers in Coimbatore region.

**Objective**

The objective of FSSAI was to ensure supply of quality, hygienic and safe food to the people and creating awareness on the legislation pertaining to this to all the stakeholders in the food industry, he said.

He lauded Tamil Nadu for effective implementation of the legislation pertaining to Food Safety and Standards, with 100 Food Safety Officers in the State, the highest in the country.

In addition to upgrading food testing laboratories including two in Tamil Nadu, the FSSAI was also planning to utilise the services of 124 private laboratories, he added. While enforcement of the law was happening on one side, sensitising the small eateries to food safety and laws relating to the same was also being given due importance, he said.

**Stringent action**

Stringent action was being taken against all offences in general and against colouring, use of chemical agents and adulteration in particular, he said.

Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Control P. Amudha, Collector T.N. Hariharan and Corporation Commissioner K. Vijayakarthikeyan took part in the session.