Dated: 31.07.2017 (Monday)

FSSAI issues a spate of notifications for packaged food

Central regulators Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in a series of notifications and orders aim to address issues like safety and standards, including labelling of packaged products and nutrient content in 2017.

This is said to be part of the health ministry's plan to strengthen the regulatory regime.

Earlier this month while addressing an Assocham conference, Pawan Kumar Agarwal, CEO of FSSAI said, "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."

"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 this regulation comes into force. So, hopefully, we will iron out differences," he added.

The regulators have passed 17 regulations so far in 2017 in comparison to a total of 13 in 2015.

FSSAI and the ministry are said to be working with food companies to bring in provisions like nutrient profiling not just for packaged food but also in restaurants.
One of the key aims of the regulator is to eradicate ‘a large number of spurious products that are available in the market’