FSSAI flags off 9 mobile food testing laboratories
Units offered to eight States to check for adulterants; 53 more such vehicles to be made available soon

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Tuesday flagged off nine mobile food testing labs.

The laboratories — Food Safety on Wheels — were flagged off FSSAI chairperson Ashish Bahuguna and will be offered to eight States.

Through these units, 24 tests can be conducted on milk, nine on edible oil, 17 on spices and 11 on other foods to check for adulterants.

Manuals provided

“We have provided manuals to the States on how to run these units,” said FSSAI CEO Pawan Agarwal.

A total of 53 more such labs will be made available to other States at a cost of Rs. 19 crore.
“The process for tendering of equipment has started,” Mr. Agarwal added.

The Authority is also working on strengthening the existing labs, and will be modernising 45 labs across the country at a cost of Rs. 12 crore each.

Mr. Agarwal said the Association would soon connect all food labs in the country by way of a centralised management system.

Food import control

“Under this system, samples collected by field units will be coded and tested in FSSAI-notified labs and the results will be available in a central database. This data will be available for enforcement and food import controls,” said Mr. Agarwal.

The Authority will also launch a food safety index to judge all States and Union Territories on parameters like testing infrastructure, enforcement, surveillance and consumer grievance cell, among others.