Now, tirupati shrine’s laddu accorded FSSAI license

TIRUPATI: There was mixed response on obtaining a certificate of licence from the Food & Safety Standards Authority of India for the Tirupati Laddu, from employees, devotees and intellectuals.

Based on a complaint in 2016 by a Bengaluru resident, T Narasimha Murthy, a team of experts had visited the shrine to conduct inspection of the Laddu making process. TTD refused permission for the inspection and categorically stated that the TTD was taking all precautionary measures in making laddus.

Later, the team went back and sent a memo to TTD. The administration did not want to drag the issue further and hence applied for a license from Food & Safety Authority of India with an annual fee of Rs 7,500 in May and obtained the same in August. “Crores of laddus are made every year and they have sanctity and an exclusive taste since ages. It is not a commercial activity, but a tradition,” opined several people.

The Temple staff said that in case anything goes wrong, immediate measures, inquiries, reports from all concerned departments and reports from external officials are being taken up by the TTD. “So there is no need for external government institutions to inspect the process,” said employees and priests of the temple. They also opined that if one institution is permitted then others too would come and interfere with TTD customs.