Food regulator FSSAI today declared 127 candidates qualified in the Food Analyst Examination that will help boost technical manpower capacity in notified food testing labs.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will hold another round of Food Analyst Examination in July this year.

"FSSAI today declared the final result of 3rd Food Analyst Examination. A total of 127 candidates out of 560 have been declared qualified as eligible to be Food Analyst on the basis of exam held in January-February 2017," the regulator said in a statement.

The first Food Analyst Examination (FAE) was conducted in 2012 wherein 19 out of 44 candidates were declared qualified, while in the second Food Analyst Examination conducted in 2014, 29 out of 149 candidates qualified as Food Analyst.

"This 3-fold increase in the number of qualified food analysts will tremendously help the notified food testing laboratories to have technical capacity to manage analytical needs of the food testing in the country," FSSAI said.

The regulator said that along with the media, it has raised issue of acute shortage of food analysts earlier. Several representations had also been received from the aspiring candidates that examination was not being conducted for the last two years.
Stating that more efforts were needed to increase the availability of technical manpower, FSSAI said it would hold another Food Analyst Examination in July, 2017.

To appear for this exam, a person should have Master's degree in chemistry or biochemistry or microbiology or dairy chemistry or food technology, food and nutrition or Bachelor of Technology in Dairy/Oil or degree in Veterinary Sciences and three years of experience in food testing analysis.

As the number of people available with three years of analytical experience is scarce, FSSAI said it has decided to conduct Junior Analyst Examination where three years analytical experience would not be required.

"This is to encourage Post graduates to have job prospects in Food industry/ Food research laboratories. They can later take up Food Analyst as a profession after acquiring required experience," it added.