

Integrated food law to be in place soon

The government will soon implement an integrated Food Safety and Standards law that will replace several incongruent laws governing the food processing industry.

'We will soon be replacing the eight to nine disparate laws applicable to the food processing industry at present with an integrated Food Safety and Standards law, which will provide a framework to address all issues,' Food Processing Industries Secretary P.I. Suvrathan said Thursday.

'The act has been passed by parliament and we are now in the process of working out its implementation,' he told a conference on food and beverages, 'Emerging Opportunities and Challenges', organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

'The implementation will not be easy because there are a lot of institutions involved with conflicting interests. It is not an easy task to bring the interests of the industry, consumers and farmers into one concise, coherent note. We need the cooperation of all the ministries concerned,' he stressed.

Rasna Pvt Ltd chairman and managing director Piruz Khambatta said: 'There is a big opportunity in SEZs (special economic zones). Like IT, soon India will be known for agriculture and food produce as well. We can make India the food factory of the world.'

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