ABSTRACT

Food Safety and Drug Administration Department – Revival of 193 lapsed temporary posts of Food Safety Officer – Orders – Issued.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (M1) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(Ms).No.304 **Dated 16.10.2026**

ஸ்ரீ பராபவ, புரட்டாசி – 29

திருவள்ளுவர் ஆண்டு 2057

Read:

1. G.O.(Ms).No.347, Health and Family Welfare (M1) Department, dated 22.12.2011.
2. From the Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration, Letter R.No.1418/2022/S9/FSD, dated 03.03.2026 and 29.09.2026.

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ORDER:-

In the Government Order first read above, the Government sanctioned 587 posts of Food Safety Officer under the Tamil Nadu Food Safety and Drug Administration Department for implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, as detailed below:

Sl.No.	Category	Number of Posts
1.	Rural Areas (Field level)	385
2.	Urban Areas (Field level)	199
3.	Commissionerate	3
Total		**587**

2. The Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration, in his letter second read above, has stated that during 2018, the field-level jurisdictions of Food Safety Officers were rationalised based on the norm of one Food Safety Officer for every 5,000 Food Business Operators and consequently, the number of field-level posts was reduced from 584 to 391. He has further stated that the said rationalisation was only a temporary administrative arrangement necessitated by the large number of vacancies and that the original sanctioned strength was intended to be retained. Consequently, 193 sanctioned posts of Food Safety Officer remained unutilised and subsequently lapsed.

3. The Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration has also stated that Food Safety Officers are required to discharge various statutory, enforcement and regulatory functions under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, including collection of food samples, inspection and follow-up of compliance, initiation of prosecution and adjudication proceedings, implementation

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of awareness programmes including Eat Right campaigns, monitoring of banned food products, inspection of institutional catering establishments and maintenance of digital compliance systems. He has further stated that there are about 8.21 lakh valid FSSAI licences and registration certificates in the State and that the existing strength of Food Safety Officers is inadequate in relation to the increasing number of Food Business Operators. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has prescribed a norm of at least one Food Safety Officer for every 1,000 licensed / registered Food Business Operators. Even after revival and filling up of the additional 193 posts, thereby restoring the field-level sanctioned strength to 584 Food Safety Officers, each Food Safety Officer would be required to cover, on an average, about 1,406 Food Business Operators. The Commissioner has, therefore, requested the Government to issue orders for the revival of the 193 vacant posts of Food Safety Officer and permit filling up of the said posts so as to strengthen enforcement of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 in the State.

4. The Government have carefully examined the proposal of the Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration in detail and decided to accept the proposal. Accordingly, the Government hereby accord sanction for the revival of 193 lapsed temporary posts of Food Safety Officer under the Tamil Nadu Food Safety and Drug Administration Department, as detailed in the Annexure to this order, with effect from the date of filling up of the respective posts.

5. The Government also permit the Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration to fill up the 193 posts of Food Safety Officer so revived, in accordance with the rules and orders in force.

6. The expenditure towards pay and allowances in respect of the posts revived in paragraph 4 above shall be debited to the respective Heads of Account indicated in the Annexure to this order.

7. This order issues with the approval of the Staff Committee and concurrence of the Finance Department vide its U.O. No.11901/M1/2026, dated 16.10.2026.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

DAREZ AHAMED
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Secretary / Commissioner of Food Safety and Drug Administration, Chennai – 600 006.
The Pay and Accounts Officers concerned.
The District Treasury Officers concerned.
The Accountant General (A&E), Chennai – 600 018 / 600 035.

Copy to:
The Finance (Health-I) Department, Chennai – 600 009.
The Human Resources Management Department, Chennai – 600 009.
The Health and Family Welfare (Data Cell) Department, Chennai – 600 009.
Stock File / Spare Copy. (C.No.11901/M1/2026).

// FORWARDED / BY ORDER //

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ANNEXURE

(G.O.(Ms).No.304, Health and Family Welfare (M1) Department, dated 16.10.2026)

Details of 193 Temporary Posts of Food Safety Officer Revived

Sl. No.	Name of the District	No. of Food Safety Officer posts Revived	Government Order in which Originally sanctioned	Head of Account
1	3	4	5	6
1.	Ariyalur	1	G.O.(Ms). No.347, Health and Family Welfare (AB.2) Department, dated 22.12.2011.	2210 – Medical and Public Health - 06 - Public Health - 001 - Direction and Administration - State's Expenditure - AI – Food Safety Wing – District Administration - 301 – Salaries (IFHRMS: 2210 - 06 – 001 - AI - 30100)
2.	Chennai	19		
3.	Coimbatore	19		
4.	Cuddalore	2		
5.	Dharmapuri	3		
6.	Dindigul	13		
7.	Erode	4		
8.	Kancheepuram	22		
9.	Kanyakumari	3		
10.	Karur	4		
11.	Krishnagiri	4		
12.	Madurai	12		
13.	Nagapattinam	2		
14.	Namakkal	5		
15.	Perambalur	1		
16.	Pudukottai	3		
17.	Ramanathapuram	2		
18.	Salem	5		
19.	Sivagangai	4		
20.	Thanjavur	6		
21.	The Nilgiris	1		
22.	Theni	5		
23.	Tiruvallur	8		
24.	Tiruvannamalai	8		

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25.	Tirunelveli	5		
26.	Tiruppur	7		
27.	Tiruchirappalli	3		
28.	Thoothukudi	4		
29.	Vellore	3		
30.	Villupuram	6		
31.	Virudhunagar	9		
Total		**193**		

DAREZ AHAMED
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

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