Preface

Food safety is a growing concern globally. Food laws currently applicable in India are characterized by multiplicity of regulations sometimes overlapping too, contain harsh, redundant & obsolete provisions, and also fail to protect the interests of the consumers effectively. These regulations fail to ensure wholesome and safe food to the people of this country and thus fail to ensure right to life i.e. healthy living as enshrined in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

The outdated food regulations in India are also standing in the way of exploiting the full potential of food processing sector in India and making India a food factory of the world. The capacity of India to penetrate world markets depends upon its ability to meet increasingly stringent food safety standards imposed by the developed countries and aligning its food regulations with the internationally accepted and respected regimes.

The object of the present study is to find out loopholes in the existing food laws in India and trace out the reasons for the failure of the present laws in achieving the desired goals. In order to find out the causes of failure of the existing food laws in ensuring safe food for consumption, a critical analysis of the various provisions of the relevant enactments has been carried out. The provisions of the food regulations of some of the developed countries such as U.S.A., Australia, U.K., E.U., Malaysia, Japan and Thailand have been taken into account for comparison purposes. Standards laid down by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations have also been considered.

Based on comparative analysis of some specific provisions of the food regulations of the countries under study, measures will be suggested for aligning the Indian food laws with the globally accepted and respected regimes.