'Need for a demand driven policy on food and big reforms such as GST', says Harsimrat Kaur Badal

New Delhi, 3 December 2015: Having realized its potential, the Indian processed food industry is at a critical junction, to leapfrog into the higher growth trajectory. The global food investors too are tracking the developments on this front, considering the potential that Indian Food Industry has to offer.

With this backdrop the 9th edition of FICCI FOODWORLD INDIA was organised on 3rd December 2015 at The FICCI Federation House, New Delhi. The convention was inaugurated by Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal Hon'ble Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, GOI.

The minister stressed on the need for a demand driven policy on food and the role of big reforms such as GST is required. A change in the consumer's mindset about health and nutritional aspect of packaged food is critical for driving further growth. At the grass-root level, village level entrepreneurship will empower the farmers and lead to sustainable growth in food production. A demand for skilled manpower from the industry will further push the workforce towards gaining required skills.

The FICCI- PwC Knowledge Paper titled 'Winning consumer trust' was unveiled on this occasion. It captures consumers' perception on quality and safety of processed food in India. The report suggest that consumers are becoming more conscious of food quality and safety; however their ability to make informed purchase decisions for processed food products is limited by their lack of awareness on food safety and quality parameters. Efforts are required from both industry and regulatory bodies to streamline the food safety and quality landscape in India.

The event was attended by major Industry captains few of them include: Dr. Jyotsna Suri, President FICCI & Chairperson & Managing Director of Bharat Hotels; Ms. Sangeeta Pendurkar, MD, Kellogg India Private; Mr. Sanjay Sharma, CEO, MTR Foods Private Limited, Mr. Siva Nagarajan, Managing Director, Mother Dairy Fruits & Vegetable Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Siraj Chaudhry, Chairman, Cargill India; Mr. Gautam Sharma, CEO, NISSIN; Mr. Sunil Duggal, CEO, Dabur India Limited; Mr. V L Rajesh, Chief Executive Officer-Food Division, ITC Limited; Ms. Geetu Verma, Executive Director-Foods, Hindustan Unilever Limited; Mr. Yogesh Bellani, Chief Executive Officer, Field Fresh Foods Pvt Ltd.; Mr. Devendra Chawla, Chief Executive Officer, Food Bazaar; Mr. Pascal Risser, CEO, Dabon International;

The event was supported by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and Food Industry. More than 250 delegates attended the program.

FICCI MEDIA DIVISION