

**Setting up of Food Processing Industries to Prevent Loss of Horticultural Products**

786. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the country is losing perishable horticultural products like fruits and vegetables to the tune of over Rs. 2,000 crores annually for lack of proper processing industries for them; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take for setting up of food processing industries at different places in the country, particularly in the State of Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Some of the fruits and vegetables which are suitable for processing are not processed due to lack of facilities.

(b) The following steps have been taken to ensure expansion of the fruit and vegetable processing industry in our country :

1. Import of equipment and machinery for processing has been liberalised and the import duty has been reduced.
2. A plan scheme has been introduced for assistance to the State Governments/Cooperative Undertakings for taking up of fruit and vegetable processing.
3. A separate Corporation, namely; North-eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. has been set up for fostering the growth of horticulture and horticulture-based industry in North-Eastern Region.
4. Modern Food Industry India Ltd. has diversified into fruit and vegetable processing

5. Fruit Preservation Centres have been set up in the States to train housewives on the processing of fruits and vegetables.

6. Three new large scale processing units have been set up in Maharashtra in 1986 besides over 600 units engaged in vegetable and fruit processing.

**Service Conditions of Scientists in ICAR**

787. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :  
SHRI P. M. SAYEED :  
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are reviewing the service conditions of the scientists working in the ICAR, to have suitable improvements effected, in order to remove stagnation and give due recognition to talents; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Rationalisation of personnel policies including removal of certain bottlenecks in absorption of scientists recruited on lateral entry basis and extension of benefits of assessment to all scientists employed in Indian Council of Agricultural Research, is being aimed at through a proposal which is at formulative stage.

**Alleged Irregularities in NAFED**

788. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :  
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :  
SHRI KRISHNA SINGH :  
DR. G S. RAJHANS :  
SHRI ANAND SINGH :  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA  
PRASAD :  
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :