

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3632

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001

SELF EMPLOYMENT THROUGH FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

ANANT GANGARAM GEETE;DAGGUBATI RAMANAIDU;KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether concrete steps are being taken by the Government for providing self-employment to rural youth by setting up Food Processing Industries in the States particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH)

(a) to (c): The Government have taken a number of policy initiatives to promote the growth of the processed food sector in the country including Maharashtra. Under the Plan Schemes of the Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI), which are project oriented and not State specific, financial assistance is extended to non-Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives, Public Sector Undertakings, Private Industries, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions etc. for the development of this sector, including setting up/expansion/modernization of food processing units.

It has been proposed in the Budget 2001-02 to bring down the current Excise Duty of 16% to Zero level for processed fruits and vegetables. It has also been proposed to give tax holiday for Industrial estates. The proposed National Food Processing Policy envisages creation of enabling environment for developing this sector, infrastructural facilities and employment opportunities for rural youth etc.