

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
AGRICULTURE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7942  
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2000  
PROCESSING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES  
DUKHA BHAGAT

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

- (a) the quantity of fruits and vegetables produced and processed in the country;
- (b) the main flows in the full development of the Food Processing Industry in the country; and
- (c) the steps proposed to be taken to modernise this industry in view of inadequate development of Food Processing Industry in the country despite India being the largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

( SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN )

- (a): The production of fruits and vegetables in the country during 1997-98 was 1128.82 lakh M.T. It is estimated that less than 2% of the total production of fruits and vegetables is processed.
- (b): Low demand-low volume of production-high per unit cost and again low demand are the main constraints faced by the Processed Food Sector. This sector is considered to be having high risk and low margin by the entrepreneurs.
- (c): Department of Food Processing Industries provides support to facilitate overall growth of food processing sector. Under its plan schemes, the Department provides concessional finance to establish/expand/modernize food processing industries, for training of manpower, promotion of R&D, dissemination of information and knowledge etc. and also provides marketing assistance. Besides, other agencies like National Horticultural Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Co-operative Development Corporation also provide assistance under their respective schemes.