

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:124
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
SHRINWAS DADASAHEB PATIL

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of fruits and vegetables processed in India as compared to Brazil;
- (b) the steps taken by the Government to increase the post harvest fruits and vegetables processing in India;
- (c) whether the Government propose to rationalise the existing food laws under single window service;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to adopt bio- technological methods in Food Processing Industries; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

- (a): It has been estimated on the basis of units registered under Fruit Products Order, 1955, that the percentage of fruits and vegetables processed in the country is under 2% of the market arrivals. The exact information regarding fruits and vegetables processed in Brazil is not available with the Ministry.
- (b): For promotion of food processing industries, Government have taken up the task of strengthening infrastructure, providing assistance for technology upgradation, modernisation/expansion of existing units, providing support for Backward and Forward Linkages and through assistance for training human resources.
- (c): Yes, Sir.
- (d): A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted by the Government to propose legislative and other changes for preparing a Modern Integrated Food Law and related regulations. It is proposed to converge and modernize the existing laws and to bring about a single statute for regulation of food products that would allow for speedy decision-making. This law is expected to take into account the international scenario and the modern developments so as to create an enabling environment and promote self-compliance by the food processing industries.
- (e) & (f): Biotechnological methods are used for production of raw as well as processed food products. As far as Food Processing Industry is concerned, some of the biotechnological methods such as fermentation method are presently used by industry for the manufacture of various processed food products.