

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1711
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
FOOD PROCESSING POLICY
BHAWANA GAWALI (PATIL)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the main characteristics of food processing policy;
- (b) whether the demand of processed food is increasing;
- (c) if so, the manner in which this increasing demand is proposed to be met; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to make available processed food items at fair prices ?

Answer

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

(a): The proposed National Policy on Food Processing Industries would broadly cover issues relating to availability of raw material, backward linkages, processing facilities including post-harvest infrastructure, packaging food quality and safety, marketing of products – domestic and export, awareness about processed foods and fiscal incentives.

(b) to (d): The domestic demand for processed foods has been increasing at a low pace mainly on account of consumer preference for fresh ones.

The present capacity utilization of processed food industries in general is low and in the case of the Fruit & Vegetables Processing, it is estimated to be around 50%. In view of our having a strong raw material base, meeting increasing demand may not pose any problem. Government of India has been taking several steps from time-to-time for the promotion of Food Processing Industries which includes stimulating the domestic demand for processed foods through generic advertisement. Department of Food Processing Industries provide financial assistance in the form of grant and soft loan to Non-Government Organisations, Cooperatives, Human Resource Development and Research & Development Institutions for the promotion of this sector.