

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:365

ANSWERED ON:19.02.2009

WASTAGE OF FOOD BY FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps during the last three years to ensure that food processing industries are streamlined to ensure that no food is wasted;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has monitored the loss due to poor food processing facilities across the country every year;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES(I/C)(SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

(a) & (b): The level of wastage of agricultural food items is estimated to be about Rs.58,000/- crores occurring at various stages of handling after harvesting due to fragmented farming, provisions in Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development & Regulation) Act, lack of adequate post-harvest infrastructure such as lack of cold chain facilities, transportation, proper storage facilities etc. The loss due to wastages could be reduced by promoting the development of food processing industries, strengthening of post-harvest infrastructure and filling the gaps in the supply chain. However, the substantial rate of growth of the food processing industry from 7% in 2003-04 to 13.14% in 2006-07 and the increase in total investment in food processing sector to Rs.40,000 crore in 2006-07 has contributed to reduction of wastages and better value addition.

In order to increase level of processing and to promote food processing industries to exploit both the domestic and international market potential for processed food products, Vision 2015 Document has been finalized by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI), which envisages tripling the size of the processed food sector by increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015. An integrated strategy for promotion of agribusiness-Vision, Strategy and Action Plan for the Food Processing Sector has also been approved by the Government.

The thrust areas identified for strategic intervention include establishment of Mega Food Parks in identified clusters with appropriate backward and forward linkages, creation of integrated cold chains/value addition and preservation infrastructure, incentivising FDI and private investment in infrastructure, launching a major promotional campaign for the food processing sector and larger public investment for creation of critical rural infrastructure in food processing sector etc.

The Ministry has been implementing various Schemes for promotion and development of food processing sector:

(i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development with four components i.e. Mega Food Park, Cold Chain, Modernization of Abattoirs and Value Added Centres. 15 Food Parks were approved at a cost of Rs. 57.35 crores in last five years, 20 Cold Storages, 3 Value Added Centres, 1 Packaging Centre and 4 Irradiation Facilities supported in last five years at cost of Rs. 15.59 crores, and 10 Cold Chain are proposed to be set in 2008-09. The Ministry has launched a comprehensive scheme for modernization of 50 abattoirs across the country during the 11th plan period. All these schemes will go a long way to reduce wastages.

(ii) under the Setting up/ Technology Upgradation/Modernization/Expansion/Establishment of Food Processing Industries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in form of grant in aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in General Areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in Difficult Areas to the Entrepreneurs. As a result of this scheme, the additional processing capacity created results directly in reduction of wastages.

(iii) under the scheme of Human Resource Development during last 5 years, assistance has been provided to 56 colleges to start courses in food technology and food science at a cost of Rs.15 crores, 99 Food Processing Training Centres were established at a cost of Rs. 2.63 crores and they trained 9500 persons and in the next five years about 270 such centers are to be assisted at a cost of Rs. 22.75 crores expecting to train 25000 persons

(iv) under the Research and Development scheme the major objective are to ensure compliance with nodal food standards and to assists industries in the food sector to develop and implement quality management system such as ISO 9000, HACCP etc., analyzing the samples received from the food processing sectors, imparting training in the areas, providing information on quality standards etc. During last five years 40 Research proposals were funded for an amount of Rs. 16.68 crores and during next five years 140 research proposals are targeted. In the last five years, 29 laboratories have been established at a cost of Rs. 39.11 crores, and 74 laboratories are targeted to be established in the next five years. Ministry of Food Processing Industries is observing the year 2008-09 as Food Safety and Quality Year and through various programmes, it has been planned to accelerate the awareness of Food Safety and Quality in the general masses. A National level launch of the Food Safety and Quality Year 2008-09 was organized on 11.6.2008 in Vigyan Bhawan for Food Processing Industries

(v) under the scheme of Upgradation of Quality of Street Food with two components which Safe Food Town and the Food Street, the Safe Food Component is being implemented in 9 cities viz., Kochi, Ludhiana, Agra, Ranchi, Nagpur, Delhi, Guwahati, Jaipur and Panaji. The Food Street component is being implemented in two cities viz., Varanasi and Tirupati. The Safe Food Town are to be implemented in 50 select cities across the country aimed at various capacity-building initiatives of Street Food Vendors based on their knowledge, attitude and practices towards handling, preparation, storage and presentation at a cost of Rs. 178.00 crores.

(vi) under the scheme of Strengthening of Institutions, the various developmental activities have been undertaken in areas such as grapes, meat and poultry processing covering the components with establishment of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management(NIFTEM), setting up of Indian Grape Processing Board, setting up of National Meat and Poultry Processing Board, strengthening of Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) and strengthening of State Nodal Agencies (SNAs). The Cabinet had approved on 21.8.2006 the setting up of NIFTEM at Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana and M/s NBCC has been engaged as project management agency for the project and work is in progress. In the next five years the institute would be established as an International Centre of excellence for food processing sector. IICPT is an autonomous organization under MFPI. The objective of the IICPT to conduct basic, applied research, education and training in the areas of post harvest processing of crops of wet lands, storm and flood prone areas. 30 Technologies have been developed and commercialized and 3 technologies patented in the last five years by IICPT. Upgradation of this institute to a National Level Organization is progressing with outlay of Rs. 85.00 crores.

(c) to (e): The losses due to poor Food Processing facility across the country is not centrally maintained every year. However, the Ministry have initiated several steps to prevent wastage as mentioned in part (a)& (b) above.