

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:170

ANSWERED ON:02.07.2009

DEVELOPMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

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

- (a) whether there is a shortage of skilled manpower in food processing industry sector in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the country is lagging behind internationally on account of lack of infrastructure facilities;
- (d) the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken to improve infrastructure and other steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the development of food processing industry in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES(SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. There is shortage of skilled manpower but the details of such shortage in the food processing sector is not maintained in the Ministry .

(c): Yes, Sir. India is lagging behind internationally on account of lack of infrastructure facilities.

(d) & (e): There are gaps in the On-farm infrastructure like primary processing centres, strategic distribution centres, collection centres, supply chain, cold chain infrastructure/ value addition infrastructure, in addition to lack of modern abattoirs and food testing laboratories , which adversely affect the development of food processing industries and result in huge wastages. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has prepared a Vision Document which, inter alia, aims at increasing the processing levels from 6% to 20 %,the value addition from 20 % to 35 % and India's share in world food trade from 1.5% to 3% by the year 2015. In this regard, the Ministry has taken strategic initiatives in the development of Food Processing Infrastructure which aim at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure/ value addition infrastructure, modernisation of abattoirs leading to overall development of food processing industries and reduction in wastages. To further strengthen the Food Processing Infrastructure, Government has approved a scheme for Mega Food Parks, which envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural- processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain. The scheme aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages.

Other strategic initiatives during 11th Plan include scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Preservation Infrastructure including Controlled Atmosphere/Modified Atmosphere Storage, Value Added Centres, Packaging Centres and Irradiation facilities. Benefits of the Scheme will also be available to integrated projects of value addition/processing/preservation of horticulture, dairy, marine, and meat sector. Another infrastructure development scheme is for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories which would benefit all stakeholders including domestic industry, exporters, entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises, existing academic & research institutions, food standards setting bodies.

Further,the Ministry has several other schemes for promotion of the food processing industry .The Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/ Modernisation of Food Processing Industries is aimed at creation of new processing capacity and up-gradation of existing processing capabilities, modernization of Food Processing Sector to include Milk , Fruit & Vegetables , Meat , Poultry, fishery , cereal, consumer items , oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse etc.

Similarly Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards,R&D and Promotional Activities, is aimed at motivating the food processing industries for adoption of food safety and quality assurance mechanisms such as TQM including ISO 14000, ISO 22000, HACCP, GMP, GHP,and preparing them to face global competition in post WTO Regime. The scheme is also aimed at ensuring that end product / outcome/findings of R&D work should benefit Food Processing Industries in terms of product and process development, improved packaging,value addition and leading to innovative products and processes, with commercial value.

The Scheme for Human Resource Development focuses on developing technologists, managers, Entrepreneurs and manpower for

quality management in Food Processing. The scheme also aims at development of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology for processing of food products by utilizing locally grown raw material and providing "Hands-on" experience at such production cum training centres, while according priority to SC/ST/OBC and women minorities candidates.

The Scheme for Strengthening of Institutions is aimed at strengthening of existing institutes like Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology & establishing National Institute of Food Technology and Entrepreneurship Management (NIFTEM). The objective of NIFTEM is to promote cooperation and networking amongst existing institutions both within the country & international bodies, create a complete data base on domestic resources and bring in international best practices for improving the food processing sector. Besides above mentioned institutions, two boards have been set up under the Ministry i.e Indian Grape processing Board and National Meat and Poultry Processing Board under the scheme.

In addition to the above mentioned schemes, certain fiscal incentives have been given to the food processing industry. Some of these are exemption to fruits and vegetable processing units from paying income tax, reduction of excise duty on ready to eat packaged foods and instant food mixes from 16% to 8%. There is automatic approval for 100% foreign equity in food processing sector.