

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:200

ANSWERED ON:27.03.2012

PROCESSING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Choudhary Shri Bhudeo;Sivakumar Alias J.K. Ritheesh Shri K.

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

- (a) the percentage of fruits and vegetables being processed in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the schemes being implemented by the Government for processing of fruits and vegetables in the country including Bundelkhand region;
- (c) the steps/initiatives taken for setting up and modernisation of fruit and vegetable processing and storage units to reduce wastage in the country during the last one year;
- (d) whether the Government has entered into any technical agreement or signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with other leading fruit and vegetable processing industrial countries to develop the said industry; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 200 FOR 27th MARCH, 2012 REGARDING PROCESSING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

(a): The data on level of processing of fruits and vegetables in the State/UT is not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(b): In order to assist entrepreneurs and domestic agro-processing industries, the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernisation of Food Processing Industries specifically aims at creation of new processing capacity and up-gradation of existing processing capabilities in sectors like Milk, Fruit & Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, fishery, wine, consumer items, oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse. Under the scheme, the Ministry extends financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid to entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas & @33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in North Eastern and difficult areas.

(c): To encourage setting up of cold chain facilities in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during the 11th Plan to provide financial assistance to project proposals received from public/private organizations for cold chain infrastructure development. The scheme envisages financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs.10.00 crore. The initiatives are aimed at filling the gaps in the supply chain, strengthening of cold chain infrastructure, encouraging value addition with infrastructural facilities like sorting, grading, packaging and processing of horticulture produce including organic produce, marine, dairy, poultry, etc. Other agencies of the Government like National Horticulture Board (NHB), Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and State Government also provide financial assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.

Similarly, the Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, R&D and Promotional Activities, is aimed at motivating the food processing industries for adopting 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. Another scheme is for setting up / up-gradation of food testing laboratories which would benefit all stakeholders.

(d): Yes, Madam.

(e): Ministry of Food Processing Industries has entered into agreements with some developed countries viz. Germany & France for bilateral co-operation in the field of food processing which generally include processed food segments including fruits & vegetables.

Besides, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has entered into number of umbrella agreements with some developed countries like USA, France, Canada, Netherlands, Argentina, Austria, Brazil for bilateral co-operation in the areas of agriculture and allied sectors which generally include agro and food processing, cold chain etc. Apart from this, MoUs have been entered into by two institutions under the Ministry, namely National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship & Management (NIFTEM) & Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT). These MoUs relate to collaboration in teaching and research in the food processing sector.