

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6242
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012
STRATEGIC DISTRIBUTION CENTRES
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

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

- (a) whether the Government had conducted a techno-feasibility study across the country for setting up of Strategic Distribution Centres (SDCs);
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any action on the said report;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the manner in which SDCs would help in strengthening the food processing sector in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The Ministry has conducted a techno-feasibility study for establishing Strategic Distribution Centres (SDCs) at strategic locations in the country. The SDC concept envisaged the last leg of the supply chain from where the finished products shall directly be sent for export/processing and to the retail/wholesale outlets. The SDC was also envisaged to handle fresh produce which will be sorted and graded properly to meet the customer requirements. The grade fitted for the fresh segment will go to the retail markets, whereas the processable grade will be available for the food processors for further value addition. The study suggested setting up 6 SDCs in different locations in the country.

(c) to (e): The SDC concept has been integrated in ongoing schemes of Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition & Preservation Infrastructure and Mega Food Parks. Integrated cold chain provides components for taking care of product requirement right from farm to market through reefer vans, Controlled Atmosphere/ Modified Atmosphere cold storages, distribution centres as well as retail outlets. Similarly, the mega food parks have also been designed to run on hub and spoke method. The Central Processing Centres (CPCs) of the park is supported by Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) located at a distance of upto 100-150 KM near the production centres. These PPCs are further supported by collection centres which are located in the cluster of villages surroundings PPCs. The PPCs and collection centres have the basic infrastructure for primary processing like grading, sorting, packaging etc. This concept takes care of the supply chain from farm to processing centres.