

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1810

ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012

R&D IN FPIs

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

- (a) the details of new projects related to Research and Development under implementation in the Food Processing Industries (FPIs) sector during 2011-12 and the current year;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to initiate research and development scheme in food processing sector through the Science and Engineering Research Board;
- (c) if so, the main features of the above scheme;
- (d) the names of eligible organizations/ institutions applying under this scheme; and
- (e) the steps taken /proposed to be taken by the Government to popularise this scheme in the country?

Answer

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

(a): (i) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) has released grant-in-aid for 14 new R&D projects amounting to Rs.445.26193 lakhs during 2011-12. During the current financial year i.e 2012-13, grant-in-aid amounting to Rs.234.70 lakhs for 5 new R&D projects has been released by the Ministry upto 27.11.2012, in respect of proposals received upto 31.3.2012. The details are at Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

(ii) In addition, an amount of Rs.385 lakhs has been released to Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) under the Department of Science and Technology for implementation of R&D projects on Food Processing in respect of proposals received with effect from 01.04.2012. Out of this amount, grant-in-aid amounting to Rs.201.246 lakhs for 11 new R&D projects has been released by SERB. The details are at Annexure-III.

(b): Yes, Madam. The existing R&D scheme of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been transferred for implementation through SERB with effect from 1.04.2012 (2012-13). Proposals received upto 31.3.2012 are being dealt with by the Ministry.

(c): Salient features of the R&D Scheme being implemented through SERB during 2012-13 remains the same as that of 11th Five Year Plan Scheme guidelines except that the mode of implementation would be through SERB. The salient features of the scheme are as under:

Ministry of Food Processing Industries under its scheme for

- (i) Research and Development in Food Processing Sector
- (ii) Setting up/ Upgradation of Quality Control/ Food Testing Laboratories
- (iii) Implementation of HACCP/ ISO 22000, ISO 14000/ GHP/GMP quality/ Safety Management Systems and
- (iv) Promotional activities, is providing financial assistance as grant-in-aid under the sub-component for Research and Development in the Food Processing Sector. The funding pattern under this component is as follows:-

(i) For Government Organizations, grant to the tune of 100 % of equipment cost plus cost of consumables and expenditure related to Junior Research Fellow (JRF)/Senior Research Fellow (SRF) /Research Associate (RA) specific to the project of specified duration for maximum of two years. Funds are also provided towards Travelling Allowance for attending the Techno Scrutiny Committee meeting (one time) and subsequently for the project review presentation (one time) to the Principal Investigator in the case of approved projects.

(ii) For Private organizations, grant to the tune of 50% of equipment cost in general areas and 70% in the difficult areas. Difficult areas include Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Utrakhhand, Sikkim, North-Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas.

(iii) 100% grant is provided for Ministry sponsored projects, restricted only to public funded organizations of repute, in cases of cutting edge areas of research leading to development of innovative products, processes and manufacturing practices.

(d): The Organizations/ Institutions eligible to submit applications under the Scheme are all Universities, IITs, Central/ State

Government Institutions, Public and Private Funded Organizations.

(e): Ministry of Food Processing Industries resorts to wide publicity at regular intervals in the leading newspapers for inviting applications for R&D projects. The Ministry also conducts workshops/ seminars to boost R&D activities in the sector. To further encourage R & D across all sectors of the economy in the Union Budget 2011-12, weighted deduction on expenditure incurred on in-house R & D has been enhanced from 150% to 200%. Further, weighted deduction on payments made to National Laboratories, Research Associations, Colleges, Universities and other institutions for scientific research has been enhanced from 125% to 175%. Ministry of Finance has issued an amendment to this effect under Section 35 AD of Finance Act 2011. This incentive would give a boost to R&D activities of all sectors.