

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2488
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
LEVEL OF FOOD PROCESSING
Thakor Shri Jagdish

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

- (a) whether the level of food processing in the country is very low as compared to many other countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the level of food processing in each State/ Union Territory including Gujarat;
- (c) whether the infrastructure as well as research and development required for food processing is sufficient to meet the demand of the food processing industry;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the manner in which the Government proposes to meet the increased demand for processed food in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the "Vision 2015: Strategy & Action Plan for Food Processing Industries in India" document of April 2005, the level of processing in India is very low and varies from sector to sector and is estimated at 2.2% in the case of fruits and vegetables. It is very high in developed countries (80% in USA, 70% in France) and in many developing countries as well (80% in Malaysia, 30% in Thailand). State-wise details on the level of food processing are not available.

(c) to (e) Lack of adequate infrastructure as well as Research & Development in the field of Food Processing are identified as the major constraints faced by the sector. In order to address the problem of infrastructure in food processing sector, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing a scheme for infrastructural development which includes components like

- (i) Mega Food Parks;
- (ii) Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation infrastructure; and
- (iii) Modernisation of abattoirs. For promoting Research & Development in food processing sector, the Ministry has been extending financial assistance to Central/State Government organization/ITIs/ Universities for undertaking projects aimed at reduction of wastage & spoilage of food & food products, development of technologies & methods for processing / preservation of food products, development & standardization of packaging technologies for food products etc.

Apart from this, Government has been implementing a Scheme for technology upgradation /establishment/ expansion/ modernisation of Food Processing Industries under which assistance by way of grant-in-aid is extended to entrepreneurs for modernization and setting up of processing units for fruits & vegetables, meat, milk, fish, grain (oil mill; Rice, pulse & flour milling), consumer products (including bakery units) etc. This scheme forms a part of centrally sponsored scheme-National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) with effect from 1.4.2012.