

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:309

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013

PROCESSING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

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

- (a) the details of the schemes being run by the Government for processing of fruits and vegetables across the country including Jharkhand and Maharashtra;
- (b) the steps being taken by the Government to check the wastage of various fruits and vegetables;
- (c) whether any agreements with other countries have been made regarding food processing; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): In order to increase the level of fruits & vegetables processing in the country including Jharkhand and Maharashtra, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) had implemented the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernisation of Food Processing Industries during the 11th Plan in the country. However, this Scheme has been subsumed in the National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) implemented by States / UTs during 12th Five Year Plan. The above scheme provides financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid in the following manner:

25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and technical civil works, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas.

33.33% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and technical civil works, subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas (i.e. Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep) and Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas.

50% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and technical civil works, subject to a maximum of Rs.100 lakhs for North-Eastern States including Sikkim.

(b): To reduce the wastage of various fruits & vegetables in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been implementing a Plan Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure during 11th Plan. 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 Governments also provide financial assistance for cold storages under their respective schemes.

(c) & (d): 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, the 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.