

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:880
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013
PROCESSING OF FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the percentage of fruits and vegetables that are processed out of the total production is very low in the country inspite of the country ranking second in the world production of fruits and vegetables and that the country is dependent on imports as these exists considerable demand in the country for processed food and vegetable products;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has set any targets regarding the processing of food items and vegetables produced in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated requirement of additional processing capacity for the same; and
- (e) the existing Centrally Sponsored Schemes that cater to promotion of and assistance to the fruits and vegetables processing sectors along with the total funds allocated, released and utilised for such purposes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF 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 food processing in India is very low as compared to some of the developed countries. However, the contribution of food processing sector to GDP has been growing significantly during the last five years ending 2011-12 at an average growth rate of 8.6 per cent per annum. Despite significant growth of domestic food processing sector, the imports of processed food products has increased due to consumer demand and preferences.

(c) & (d) It has been the endeavour of the Government to encourage increase in the level of food processing in the country to increase shelf life, reduce wastage of food products and ensure higher returns to the farmers through various incentives. However, no specific target has been set by the Government in relation to processing of fruits and vegetables in the country.

(e) Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme - National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP)-on 1st April, 2012 for implementation through State/ UT Governments. The various schemes under the NMFP, interalia, include setting up/ modernisation of food processing units, setting up Cold Chain units for non- horticultural products, Primary Processing Centres/ Collection Centres in Rural Areas, setting up/ modernisation of meat shops, Reefer Vehicles, Human Resource Development and Promotional Activities. The State-wise allocation, release and utilization of funds under the NMFP scheme during 2012-13 & 2013-14 are given in Annexure-I.