

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:412

ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017

Radiation Processing Technology

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

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to use Radiation Processing Technology developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre(BARC) for the preservation of fruits and vegetables including onions, potatoes and tomatoes in order to solve the problem of shortage in their supply and the consequent price rise and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) Whether the Government has conducted any study about security concerns with regard to Radiation Processing Technology and if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) Whether the places have been identified for setting up Radiation Processing Plants in the country particularly Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra;
- (d) The expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and
- (e) The time by which the said Radiation Processing Plants are likely to be set up?

Answer

(a & b): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure with the objective of preventing post-harvest losses of horticultural & non-horticultural produce. One of the components of the Cold Chain scheme is the setting up of Irradiation facilities for preservation of the food products including onion, potato etc., Irradiated food is regulated in the country in accordance with the Atomic Energy (Radiation Processing of Food & Allied Products) Rules 2012 and Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. Food can be irradiated only in a food irradiation plant, which is authorized by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board and licensed by the competent Government Authority. The license to carry out food irradiation operation is given only after ascertaining the safety and security of the installation, its suitability to ensure proper process control, and availability of licensed operators and qualified staff. Board of Radiation & Isotope Technology (BRIT) is providing consultancy services for establishment of food irradiation plant. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is also regulating the food safety aspects of irradiated food products under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2016 and its Regulations thereunder.

(c & d): Under the scheme for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, the Ministry provides financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid @ 35% for general areas and @ 50% for North East States, Himalayan States, ITDP areas and Islands for storage and transport infrastructure and @ 50% and 75% respectively for value addition and processing infrastructure subject to a maximum grant-in-aid of Rs. 10 crore for setting up integrated cold chain projects including irradiation facility. The scheme is primarily private sector driven and proposals under this scheme are invited through Expression of Interest (EOI).The entrepreneurs/ promoters are free to set up Irradiation facility as per their business model and financial capability throughout the country including Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. The Ministry has approved 04 irradiation projects under the Scheme. A total grant of Rs. 23.29 crore has been approved for these four projects with total project cost of Rs.68.54 crore. Out of these four irradiation projects assisted by Ministry, one project is located in Uttar Pradesh and remaining three are one each in Haryana, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

(e): As per revised operational scheme guidelines issued on 29.08.2016 for Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure the implementation schedule for setting up the cold chain projects including Irradiation projects is 20 months in General Areas and 24 months in North-East States, Himalayan States, ITDP Areas and Islands from the date of issue of the sanction to the project.