

Title : Statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations in the Fourth Report of Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2004-05).

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Sir, I am laying this statement on status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73 A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin Part-II dated 1st September, 2004. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of House.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Without wasting the time of the House, I beg to lay the remaining part of the statement.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a question of wasting the time but of utilising the time in a better manner because there is very little time available.

*The Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 17.8.2004. The Report relates to examination of Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2004-05.

An action taken statement on the recommendations/observations contained in the Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 16.11.2004.

There are 24 recommendations made by the Committee in the said Report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertain to the issues like inadequate Budget allocation to the Ministry, provision of 100 per cent grant for processing of horticultural produce in the North-Eastern region, earmarking a certain percentage of credit to the FPI sector in the priority sector bank lending, creation of processed food development fund, early finalisation of Integrated Food Law, liberalisation of pattern of assistance for infrastructure development/food park, merger of Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), National Horticulture Board (NHB) with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, supply of fruits to school children as midday meal, higher allocation of fund for technology upgradation scheme, establishment of National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), creation of separate Department for food processing industries in each State, etc.

The present status of implementation of various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement and the same is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents given in the Annexure. I would request that this may be treated as read.