

Statement-III*Details of Measures taken by the Government*

- (i) Declaration of most food processing industries as high priority.
- (ii) Delicensing all 'food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale sector.
- (iii) Promoting domestic/foreign/NRI investment.
- (iv) Providing fiscal reliefs by reducing or eliminating excise duties in many food products.
- (v) Providing duty relief in excise and customs for food processing industries.
- (vi) Networking with State Governments and assisting Nodal Agencies identified by the State Governments through Plan Schemes.
- (vii) Propagation of the concept of backward linkages.
- (viii) Extension of assistance for promotion of post-harvest infrastructure, cold chain etc.
- (ix) Extending assistance for establishment of Food Processing and Training Centres for propagating technology for developing entrepreneurship in the rural areas. Assistance extended so far covers 245 such centres.
- (x) Public and private sectors are viewed as complementary for all round planned development. Increasing emphasis is being placed on individual effort and private initiatives.
- (xi) Operating various plan schemes for promoting food processing industries.

[Translation]

Construction of Dam

5102. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a dam across the Yamuna river near Palwal, Haryana;

(b) if so, the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon and the percentage of the expenditure likely to be borne by the Union Government; and

(c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Irrigation Projects in A.P.

5103. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total funds sanctioned by the Union Government to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for the irrigation development programme during the current financial year, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : So far no funds have been sanctioned in the current financial year.

Salinity of Soil

5104. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the area which has been adversely affected by salinity of soil in the country; and

(b) the measures being taken by the Government to control this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) According to an estimate gathered from State Governments, about 50.52 lakh hectares area is affected by salinity.

(b) A new scheme has been proposed during 9th Five Year Plan for reclamation and control of Soil Salinity by this Department. Activities under the scheme include leaching of salts with provision of surface and sub-surface drainage network supplemented with cultivation of salt resistant crops and p 28 construction with cultivation of resistant crops and construction of dyke/embankments particularly in coastal areas.

The State Governments also undertake remedial measures under the land reclamation programmes.

[Translation]

Embassies and High Commissions

5105. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries in the world in which High Commissions and Embassies of our country are functioning;

(b) whether requisite number of officials in these High Commissions and Embassies have since been appointed;

(c) the number of such High Commissions and Embassies where there has not been any head/incharge for the last two years; and