

some factors like natural calamities, which the Hon. Member has said, specifically in regard to the States which are by the side of the sea where there are frequent cyclones, APC previously have specifically recommended that a little over Rs. 5/-per quintal more margin should be paid to the farmers. Till now you have not agreed to that for that risk element.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : He has made the announcement here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Keeping in view that risk element will Government give them a higher price as per the recommendations of the APC.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: The Deputy Prime Minister has assured you;

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is wrong to say that the labour is not taken into consideration. The Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission takes the actual wages paid to the labourers in a particular state while calculating the cost of production.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : We are giving much more than the minimum wages. Sometimes three times.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The labour that they have employed, including their own labour is taken into consideration. Farmers, in the course of farming are employing their own labour, i.e., himself his wife and children, they are also taken into consideration. In the paid out cost, the bullock labour, machine labour—hired or owned—rent paid for lease on land, besides cash and kind expenses on use of material inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, manures, pesticides, irrigation charges including diesel, electricity for operation of pumpsets are all taken into consideration while calculating the cost of production.

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough, we have taken 15 minutes for this question.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The price is fixed taking all this into consideration. There is no such proposal at present to consider.

MR. SPEAKER: Next question now.

Percentage of Fruit and Vegetable Output Processed

*287. SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state,

(a) the percentage of fruit and vegetable output in the country which is processed;

(b) how does it compare with other countries, particularly the agriculturally developed countries in Europe and countries like USA and Brazil; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure expansion of this under-developed industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Nearly 0.3 percent of fruits and vegetables produced in the country is processed into various products.

(b) No exact figure is available from the agriculturally developed countries. However, it has been estimated that about 50% of fruits and vegetables is processed in those countries.

(c) The following steps have been taken to ensure expansion of the fruit and vegetable processing industry in our country:

- (1) the import of equipment and machinery for processing has been liberalized and the import duty has been reduced.
- (2) Efforts are being made to increase production and productivity of fruits and vegetables to make them available in sufficient quantity for processing.
- (3) Agricultural research for evolving suitable varieties for processing purposes is being taken up.
- (4) A plan scheme has been introduced for assistance to the State Governments.

Cooperative Undertakings for taking up of fruit and vegetable processing.

- (5) A separate Corporation, namely, North-eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. has been set up for fostering the growth of horticulture and horticulture-based industry in North-Eastern Region.
- (6) Modern Food Industry India Ltd. has diversified into fruit and vegetable processing.
- (7) Fruit Preservation Centres have been set up in the States to train housewives on the processing of fruits and vegetables.

SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ: Sir, compared to other agriculturally developed countries which are processing 50% of their food production, we process only 0.3% of the food produced in this country. I would like to know what are the actual steps which the Government is going to take in regard to the processing of food produced in this country, how long will it take for us to come to a level of processing 50% of our food production.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, the promotional steps that have been taken for the processing industry in India are as follow:

- (i) The import of equipment and machinery for processing has been liberalised and the import duty has been reduced.
- (ii) Efforts are being made to increase production and productivity of fruits and vegetables to make them available in sufficient quantity for processing. Agricultural research for evolving suitable varieties for processing purposes is being carried out.
- (iii) Fruit Preservation Centres have been set-up in the States to train housewives on processing of fruits and vegetables.
- (iv) A separate Corporation, namely, North-eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd. has been set up for fostering the growth of

horticulture and horticulture based industry in North-eastern Region.

- (v) Modern Food Industry India Ltd. has diversified into fruit and vegetable processing.
- (vi) Agro-industrial Complexes are being promoted by State Government to develop direct links with growers to ensure them remunerative returns for their produce.

SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ: Apart from the steps taken by the Government for processing, we understand there is a collaboration between Agro-Industrial Corporation, Punjab and Pepsi. Is there any proposal pending with the Government regarding processing of fruits with a foreign collaborator and what action Government is going to take?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, this is a matter concerned with the Ministry of Industry and not with the Ministry of Agriculture.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Sir, in the answer given by the Minister it is stated that only 0.3 per cent of the fruits and vegetables produced in this country are being processed into various products but with regard to the other question, namely, as compared to the other countries the statistics has not been given fully. Moreover it has been stated that no exact figure is available from the agriculturally developed countries. Why have Government not taken steps to get the statistics from other countries?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Because they are inconvenient.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: May be. When you have taken steps to liberalise import of equipment and machinery for processing why have you not made efforts to get the figures? Secondly, you have stated in the statement that in other countries nearly 50 per cent of their fruits and vegetables are processed. When such is the stage in other countries why in India you have not taken steps to increase the percentage? You have mentioned seven steps in your statement.

Since how long those steps are being taken and what is the net result out of it?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There are a number of reasons why fruit processing industry has not developed in this country. It is basically because in our homes we are making chutneys, pickles and so many things. That is not taken into consideration when we say 0.3 per cent. It is also processing but that is not taken into consideration.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Then eating is also processing.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, apart from that there are a number of reasons.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is the farmers who are suffering on this account. (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I would like to give certain reasons. They are: High cost of processed fruits and vegetables vis-a-vis fresh fruits and vegetables due to high packaging cost and high excise and other levies. Most processing units are of small scale nature lacking modern technology. Availability of most fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the year due to a wide range of agro-climatic conditions prevailing in the country and popularity of traditional products like pickles, chutneys, sundried fruits and vegetables, which can be easily prepared at home. These are the few factors which work against the processing industry. The main reasons is that fresh fruits are available in this country in every season because of the wide range of agro-climatic conditions in our country. For export, we have taken steps to develop the industry, but it is for the entrepreneurs to come forward.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: The Minister has stated that the Government is considering to set up a fruit and vegetable development Corporation in the North-East region only. As you know, all parts of our country produce vegetables and fruits, whether it is a temperate or a tropical or a sub-tropical zone. Why is that the Government not considering to set up such a Corporation covering the entire country?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is a suggestion for making a note.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Makwana, the suggestion is that if you compare the position with the foreign countries and if you wish that there should be diversification of agriculture then we shall have to go in for processing. In the Horticulture Board meeting also Shri Dhillon had taken up this issue.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: He has replied to my supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: But it is necessary to undertake processing and export. You have to do it. there is no other way. There is an urgent need for processing and export.

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : With reference to your observations, you are quite correct that we have not done as good a progress in food preservation as ought to have been done. We have considered this matter. We recently had a meeting of the Horticulture Board and we will come out with certain suggestions and I hope you will also welcome them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: This should be done.

MR. SPEAKER: You should complete with the help of latest technology. Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Before putting the question, I have a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order during the question Hour. You may state the question number.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: The point of order is on my question.

MR. SPEAKER: You may read out the question number.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: I shall raise it during the question. Question No. 288.