

commercial processing of meat, both for domestic consumption and exports. The financial assistance (grant-in-aid) is being extended at 50% and 75% of the cost of plant & machineries and technical civil works in general and difficult areas respectively subject to a maximum of Rs. 15 crores for each project. The Ministry has approved (in principle) to set up ten abattoirs in the country with a total cost of Rs. 127.00 crores. An amount of Rs.7.94 crores has been released.

Further, the Ministry has several other schemes for promotion of the food processing industry. The Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/ Modernisation of Food Processing Industries is aimed at creation of new processing capacity and up-gradation of existing processing capabilities, modernization of Food Processing Sector to include Milk, Fruit & Vegetables, Meat, Poultry, fishery, cereal, consumer items, oil seeds, rice milling, flour milling, pulse etc.

Similarly Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, R&D and Promotional Activities, is aimed at motivating the food processing industries for adoption of food safety and quality assurance mechanisms such as TQM including ISO 14000, ISO 22000, HACCP, GMP, GHP, and preparing them to face global competition in post WTO Regime. The scheme is also aimed at ensuring that end product / outcome / findings of R&D work should benefit Food Processing Industries in terms of product and process development, improved packaging, value addition and leading to innovative products and processes, with commercial value.

The Scheme for Human Resource Development focuses on developing technologists, managers, Entrepreneurs and manpower for quality management in Food Processing. The scheme also aims at development of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology for processing of food products by utilizing locally grown raw material and providing "Hands-on" experience at such production cum training centres, while according priority to SC/ST/OBC and women minorities candidates.

The Scheme for Strengthening of Institutions is aimed at strengthening of existing institutes like Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology & establishing National Institute of Food Technology and Entrepreneurship Management (NIFTEM). The objective of NIFTEM is to promote cooperation and networking amongst existing institutions both within the country & international bodies, create a complete database on domestic resources and bring in international best practices for improving the food-processing sector. Besides above-mentioned institutions, two Boards have been set up under the Ministry *i.e.* Indian Grape Processing Board and National Meat and Poultry Processing Board under the scheme.

Fish processing technology

2463.SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though the domestic fish production is touching over 7.25 million tones annually and 50 per cent is exported to ASEAN region, their processing level still remains stagnant;

(b) if so, whether Government would take steps for involvement of higher fish processing technologies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The domestic production of Fish is at the level of 7.58 million tons (provisional) during the year 2008-09. The total marine products exported from India during the year 2008-09 is 6,02,835.00 tons worth Rs.8607.94 crores. Out of this, the exports to ASEAN countries accounted for 65,822 tons (10.92% of the quantity exported), worth Rs.613.46 crores.

Government of India has taken various steps to improve the growth of fish processing sector. Marine Products Exports Development Authority (MPEDA) operates various schemes for modernization of fish processing units for export. These schemes are instrumental in setting up infrastructure for seafood processing and value addition in order to cater the need of developed markets. During 2008, MPEDA launched new Technology Upgradation Scheme for Marine Products aimed at promoting infrastructure development for high value addition of marine products. Besides, MPEDA is providing assistance for setting up of quality control laboratories, for processors/pre-processors to construct/renovate captive/independent pre-processing centres, as per European Union standards, for upgradation of seafood plants to EU standards etc.

Further, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries also extends financial assistance to fish processing units for setting up, modernization and upgradation under the Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization. During the year 2008-09 the Ministry has provided financial assistance of Rs.3.9 crores to 16 fish processing units in the country.

Food processing units in Karnataka

2464. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects received from Karnataka for setting up food processing units in the State, which are pending for clearance;

(b) the number, out of them, which are pending for more than three years and those which are pending for less than three years, but more than one year; and

(c) by when they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) extends financial assistance in the country in the form of grant-in-aid to implementing agencies/entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant & Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in Difficult areas under the Scheme of Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing industries.