

Food Parks in various locations of the country with a view to make available common infrastructure facilities for food processing industries, especially, SMEs. The Scheme provided for a grant up to 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 4 crore in general areas. Higher scale of assistance @ 33.33% was admissible for difficult areas of North-Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The Ministry has so far approved 56 Food parks for assistance during Eighth to Tenth Five Year Plan Periods. However, Government of Goa has not approached the Central Government for establishing food parks in the State. The Scheme of Food Parks has since been discontinued after Tenth Plan Period.

Regarding Setting up/Modernization/Expansion of food processing units, Government provides financial assistance in the form of grants-in-aid @25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas. The scheme is not State specific and State-wise centralized data regarding receipt of proposals for assistance is not maintained as these cases are received through Banks, which appraises the proposals for extending term loan.

(e) In the Eleventh Plan, the Ministry has approved a new scheme to establish 30 Mega Food Parks with a view to provide state-of-the-art infrastructure for food processing sector in the country on a pre-identified cluster basis with a strong backward and forward linkage and to provide value addition of agricultural commodities including poultry, meat, dairy, fisheries etc. in a demand driven manner. Financial assistance up to 50% of project cost excluding land component in general areas and 75% in difficult areas, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 crore is provided for setting up of Mega Food Parks.

Legislation on food processing sector

1114. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to draft a consolidated legislation on food processing sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Government has notified Food Safety and Standard Act, 2006 to integrate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the Nodal Ministry for implementation of the said Act.