

श्री सभापति: इन सारे इश्यूज पर चर्चा हो जाएगी। इन पर सारी पार्टियां मिलकर-बैठकर चर्चा करेंगी। यह हो जाएगा। क्वेश्चन नंबर 107.

Setting up of Food Research Institute at Konni in Kerala

*107. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has approached the Centre for assistance and help for setting up an Indigenous Food Research Institute at Konni on a 114 acre campus;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the decision of Government on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Government of Kerala had initially forwarded a proposal on 4.11.2004 for setting up of Indigenous Food Research Institute on 100 acres campus at Konni in the State of Kerala at an estimated cost of Rs. 95.33 crores. Since the schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries do not have any provision for setting up of an institute, the Government of Kerala was advised on 22.2.2005 to revise the proposal and avail assistance under the Research & Development and HRD schemes.

Government of Kerala has forwarded proposals for (i) Development of Indigenous Food Park at Konni, (ii) setting up of Food Processing & Training Centre, (iii) setting up of Food Quality Monitoring Lab and (iv) organizing courses and infrastructure in College of Food Technology. Certain clarifications/additional information have been sought in respect of proposals (i) to (iii) from Government of Kerala.

The proposals for starting 3 year B.Sc. (Food Technology & Quality Assurance) and 2 year M.Sc. (Food Technology & Quality Assurance) courses in the College of Food Technology, Konni at a project cost of Rs. 154 lakhs is under the consideration of the Government.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has sanctioned any specific amount for the project; and what is the total amount transferred to Kerala for the project?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, basically, there are four proposals, and this whole proposal is not in a proper form. So, we are trying to work out with the state nodal agency, and we expect that in the month of August, the PAC, which is a committee for sanctioning this sort of a proposal, will clear it. Because, the earlier proposal was quite a big proposal which does not come under my Ministry, but we have asked the Government to give in the break up for the whole different heads. Now, they are bringing up, so we will clear it.

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Sir, *vide* letter F. No. MFPI/LAB/2005/22, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has sanctioned Rs. 20 crores as Grant-in-aid in three phases for the food quality lab sought to be set up at Khodi. About Rs. 20 crores have already been sanctioned.

SUBODH KANT SAHAY: I don't know whether you are asking about this proposal, or, the overall money we have given to Kerala. So far as the overall proposal given by Kerala, I agree, but as for the proposal of Quality Lab, I think no money has been released as documents are awaited.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, the Food Processing Ministry is a very important Ministry, and a lot of work can be done. Employment can be generated, especially, in the State of Kerala. The hon. Minister in his reply says, "The Government of Kerala; has sent some proposals with regard to an institute which he has sent back for certain clarifications." What I want to know from the Minister is: what is the Government doing at its own initiative to create employment and to set up food processing industries in the State? Have you done anything on your own? Rather than blaming the State of Kerala, what have you done? What is this Ministry for?

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: We are not blaming Kerala. Kerala is a very vibrant State. I say that Kerala will do better in food processing sector. So far as this Ministry is concerned, we have come out with so many proposals. As you know, in the last Budget, we, literally, made this sector as a taxless sector. A lot income-tax, excise duty, and customs holidays, were declared. We have a vision to invest more than one lakh crore rupees in this sector. For that, we are even talking to the state to

formulate its own policy because this is a perishable industry and for making investment in this sector, one has to get a more lucrative and attractive proposal, so that he can invest in this sector. Sir, I must say that a lot of big players have jumped into this sector now and they are investing in the food processing industry even in the form of contract farming. The backward linking activity is also going on. Even the domestic players of this country have come out in the retail chain. Sir, the retail chain itself will create a big market for this sector, and this is our priority. We have even written to the banks to treat this sector as a priority sector, so that there should not be any problem with regard to loan, etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Health hazards of asbestos mining

*101. DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Bureau of Mines has conducted study on the health hazards of asbestos mines workers of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the recommendations thereof;

(c) whether the study recommended for lifting of ban on asbestos leasing; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken/proposed to be taken to implement these recommendations including the time-frame for implementation?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Study recommended that the ban imposed on grant and renewal of mining leases and expansion of mining may be lifted subject to control of pollution level in work environment of various operations and other remedial measures.

(d) The proposal of amending Regulation 124 of Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961 by way of reducing permissible limit of airborne respirable asbestos fibre dust from 2 to 0.1-0.5 per millilitre of air is under consideration in consultation with Directorate General, Mines Safety(DGMS).