

room facilities including farm level pre-cooling for preservation or storage of agricultural and allied produce, marine products and meat, as a part of the farm to market initiative and to promote private sector investment in setting up of cold storages. In addition, Government has also announced project import status at a concessional customs duty of 5% with full exemption from service tax to the initial setting up and expansion of cold storage, cold room including farm pre-coolers for preservation or storage of agriculture and related sectors produce and full exemption from custom duty to refrigeration units required for the manufacture of refrigerated vans or trucks.

Wastage of agricultural food items

1540. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any assessment is made every year for the loss incurred due to wastage of agricultural food items at various stages in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such loss during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (c) the details of steps the Ministry is taking or proposes to take to reduce the losses; and
- (d) to what extent the Vision 2015 Document helps in addressing the above issues?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No such annual assessment is made by the Ministry on losses incurred due to wastage of agricultural food items at various stages in the country. However, it has been estimated that the overall annual wastage of agricultural produce in the country has reduced from Rs. 58,000 crores in 2004 to Rs. 30,000 crores in 2010.

(c) In order to achieve the above, the Ministry has been implementing various plan schemes, namely i) Scheme for Infrastructure Development with major components i.e. Mega Food Park, Cold Chain, Value Addition & Preservation Infrastructure, Modernization of Abattoirs, ii)

Scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/ Modernisation/ of FPI, iii) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards and R&D iv) Scheme for Human Resource Development, v) Scheme for Strengthening of Institution and vi) Scheme for Upgradation of Quality of Street Food. Under the scheme of funding R&D projects, the Ministry has been funding projects submitted by reputed institutions like NT, etc. to develop new technologies & new products so as to enhance shelf life & reduce wastages.

(d) In order to increase the level of processing and promote industrial growth in the sector, the Ministry has come out with Vision 2015 with an objective of trebling the size of the industry, increasing the level of processing of perishables from 6% to 20%, value addition from 20% to 35% and share in global food trade from 1.5% to 3% by 2015.

Survey to reduce wastage of food items

†1541. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that for want of basic infrastructure in the country, perishable food items like cereals, fruits, vegetables, fishes etc. are going waste;
- (b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to find out measures to reduce this loss;
- (c) if so, the details of measures adopted?
- (d) whether any scheme has been prepared to implement these measures; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been estimated by studies conducted by various stakeholders that Rs. 30,000 crores worth of agricultural produce is wasted every year for want of basic infrastructure in the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.