

Level of food processing

3617. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is not a fact that the food processing level in India is lower than the other developing and developed countries of the world;

(b) to what extent the Vision 2015 Document helps in increasing the level of food processing in India and promotes industrial growth in the food processing sector; and

(c) to what extent Government has been able to achieve to increase the perishable items from 6 per cent to 20 per cent, value addition from 20 per cent to 35 per cent and increase food trade from 1.5 per cent to 3 per cent since implementation of the Vision 2015 in 2005?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir. The food processing levels in India are lower than other developing and developed countries.

(b) and (c) The Vision 2015 document had suggested a number of measures aimed at enhancing and stabilizing the income level of the farmers, providing choice to consumers in terms of greater variety and taste including traditional ethnic food, providing greater assurance about safety and quality of food to consumers, promoting a dynamic food processing industry, enhancing the competitiveness of food processing industry in both domestic as well as international markets, making the sector attractive for both domestic and foreign investors, achieving integration of the food processing infrastructure from farm to market, having a transparent and industry friendly regulatory regime and putting in place a transparent system of standards based on science.

The Vision 2015 document also envisioned tripling the size of the processed food sector by 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. As against this, it is estimated that currently, the processing levels have increased to about 11% with value addition estimated at 26%.

Promotion of coconut water based industry

3618. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state: