

[10 March, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

is there. In fact, yesterday, in the Cabinet, we have increased the amount for household latrines. Not only drinking water and sanitation but also health, cleanliness and nutrition also are components of the National Rural Health Mission.

श्री दत्ता मेघे : सभापति महोदय, ये जो हॉस्पिटल होते हैं, इन्हें हम मरीजों के लिए बनाते हैं आप साफ-सफाई की बात कर रहे हैं, लेकिन मुम्बई में डॉक्टर लोगों की आज आठ दिन से स्ट्राइक चालू हैं, ये डॉक्टर जो बिना पूछे स्ट्राइक पर जाते हैं, उनके लिए क्या केन्द्र के कोई डॉक्टर हों या जो इमरजेन्सी सर्विसेज हों ताकि मरीज लोगों को तकलीफ न हो, इस दृष्टि से क्या केन्द्र सरकार पूरे राज्यों को कोई आदेश देने वाली हैं ? मुम्बई में आठ दिन से यह पूरे डॉक्टर स्ट्राइक पर हैं, वहां मरीजों की क्या हालत होगी, आप सोचें । वे फुटपाथ पर बैठकर बोलते हैं कि हम उनको एग्जामिन कर रहें हैं । ये जो इस तरह की बातें हमेशा होती हैं, डॉक्टर हो या नर्स हो, ये जो इमरजेन्सी सर्विसेज हैं, वे खंडित न हों, डॉक्टर वहां हों, मरीजों को तकलीफ न हो, इसके लिए क्या केन्द्र सरकार कोई इमरजेन्सी ऐसा कोई आदेश निकाल सकेगी ?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS: Sir, it is a State issue and the State Government is competent to deal with it.

श्री दत्ता मेघे : सर, स्टेट इश्यू की बात नहीं है ।

श्री सभापति : ठीक हैं, ठीक हैं । नैक्स्ट क्वेश्चन ।

FPI in Nagaland

*283. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal to develop and promote food processing industries in Nagaland;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to implement this proposal; and

(c) if not, what allocation has been made for the State during the last three years?

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

Development of food processing industries is an ongoing process. Several steps have been taken by the Government from time to time for

promotion of the food processing industries in all States including Nagaland. Fruit & vegetable processing units are already exempted from payment of excise duty. In the year 2004-05 the Government has allowed under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. In the Union Budget of 2006-07, Government has announced to exempt the condensed milk, ice cream, preparation of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast from payment of excise duty. Government has also implemented Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for establishment and modernization of the food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for Research & Development, human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries. These schemes are project-oriented not State or area-oriented. Accordingly, assistance is released to the agency responsible for implementing the FPI project. During last three years and the current year, an amount of Rs. 58.10 lakh has been released for different FPI project in Nagaland.

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question was very straight relating to the proposal submitted by the State Government and implemented by the State Government. But the answer given has gone in the other direction, that is, exemption of excise duty and 100 per cent income-tax exemption, except the last sentence which is relevant to my question.

Sir, you may be aware that the North-Eastern Region, particularly, Nagaland, is one of the most potential areas for green vegetation and foodgrain farming without fertilizers or chemicals. It produces organic food. I would like to inform this august House that during the last few years, in some districts, massive farming of horticulture along with agricultural and allied things has taken place and they are producing surplus crops.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You come to your question.

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Sir, the answer to my question is not correct. That is why I am explaining a little bit. The farmers are facing marketing problems. You are aware that the meat consumption rate is very high in the North-Eastern Region and in order to substitute the red meat consumption, it is highly essential to introduce food processing units in

[10 March, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

all the district headquarters of the region. This mission will not only help the consumers but also solve the unemployment problem to a great extent. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether specific fund provision could be made for the North East Region, especially for Nagaland to encourage such processing units during 2006-07 programme.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, basically, this Ministry does not allocate specific fund to any State. We encourage entrepreneurs and persuade the States to come forward with these types of projects and proposals. If any proposal comes to us, we will certainly give priority to Nagaland. I would like to inform the hon. Member that we are taking a comprehensive approach. The Food Processing Ministry, along with the Ministry of Agriculture, is going to hold a Summit Focus North East' in Nagaland on 27th of this month. Everybody is coming there. If any proposal comes to us, we will certainly discuss that.

SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Sir, there is one more problem about implementation. I understand that the Central funding pattern under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries is 33 per cent Central share and 67 per cent entrepreneur's share, which is practically difficult for the poor entrepreneur's to raise. Moreover, State banks and other financial agencies are reluctant to provide loan against these kinds of schemes. This is one area which needs to be addressed by the Central Government with all seriousness and also needs to come out with a feasible perception. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether such guideline can be reviewed to increase the Central share up to 90 per cent in order to encourage the private entrepreneurs.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, it is a fact that we are reviewing it. This matter is with the Group of Ministers. We are considering if we can go up to 90 per cent. But, at the same time, I would like to inform the hon. Member that in the present Budget, Rs. 1,000 crore refinancing window is being created. Just because it is a perishable industry, banks are not willing to finance it. So, the Government is providing Rs. 1,000 crore refinancing window. I hope it will be taken care of.

SHRI LALHMING LIANA: Sir, we all know that the rural areas in the country, especially in the North East are industrially backward. The food processing units in rural areas of the North East are indigenous ones and need to be developed. I would like to know from the hon. Minister

whether the Government is considering special programme to impart modern technology to promote and develop food processing units in rural areas especially in the North East. I would also like to know whether the Government envisages taking steps to develop food processing units at the cottage level.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Sir, in the Horticulture Mission and the Mini Mission, North East is a special focus area. Upgradation of technology is included in it. As I said, in this Summit in the North East, the Chief Ministers and all concerned are coming. We are going to discuss these issues in detail. If any hon. Member wants to join that Summit, he is welcome.

*284. *[The questioner (Shri N.K. Premachandran) was absent. For answer vide page 28.]*

Increasing forest cover

*285. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any comprehensive strategic plan for increasing the forest cover by maintaining greenery in the country for the next twenty years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken for increasing forest cover in the country;

(d) the estimated amount to be spent on this plan and whether Government have chalked out any plan for the increasing participation of local people in these plans; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The National Forestry Action Programme (NFAP) of India 1999 is a 20 year perspective plan for the forestry sector of the