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conclusions drawn will be unrealistic in view of the resources and infrastructure available in the country.

(c) The "Science and Technology Policy 2003" announced by the Government envisages to raise the level of investment on Science and Technology to at least 2% of GDP by the end of Tenth Plan with enhanced participation of R&D investment by industry. Accordingly, the Government has enhanced the S&T Plan outlay of Scientific Department from Rs. 12,022 crores in Ninth Plan to Rs. 25,243 crores in Tenth Plan. Also, several initiatives have been taken to encourage investment on R&D both in industry and institutions through several fiscal incentives and other support measures such as support in the form of grants for industrial R&D projects, support to R&D projects through sector specific programmes of various scientific and economic Ministries, income tax relief on R&D expenditure, weighted tax deduction for sponsored research, custom duty exemption on goods imported for use in Government funded R&D projects, tax holiday and national awards for outstanding R&D.

Food processing industry in Himachal Pradesh

*435. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Himachal's economy and the livelihood of a vast majority of its people depends on its fruit production, yet Himachal Pradesh loses out because no or little investment has gone into creating a food processing industry; and

(b) whether any steps are being taken to augment and build special packages for Himachal Pradesh with regard to the food processing industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Himachal Pradesh is rich in production of horticulture produce including fruits. Government has implemented several plan schemes for promotion of food processing industries in Himachal Pradesh. Under these schemes, financial assistance is provided for technology upgradation/modernization/establishment of the food processing units. Assistance is also provided for creation of infrastructure, support for R&D and human resource development besides other promotional measures to encourage development of the food processing industries. Enhanced quantum of assistance is available under the plan schemes for difficult areas including

Himachal Pradesh. Fruit processing capacity in Himachal Pradesh is estimated at 80,500 MT per annum.

Recognizing the potential of horticulture for socio economic development of the hilly states including Himachal Pradesh, the Govt, of India has extended the Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States (including Sikkim) to Himachal Pradesh along with Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal. The goals of the Mission are to establish convergence and synergy among various on-going Governmental Programmes in the field of horticulture development to achieve horizontal and vertical integration of these Programmes. Technology Mission consists of four Mini Missions to address various aspects of horticulture development including research, production, post harvest management, marketing and processing. Mini Mission-IV is concerned with processing which is implemented through Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

The 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 exemption of excise duty on condensed milk, icecream, preparation of meat, fish and poultry, pectins, pasta and yeast. Custom duty on packaging machines has been reduced from 15 percent to 5 percent. NABARD has created a separate window with a corpus of 1,000 crore for refinancing loans to the sector, especially for agro-processing infrastructure and market development. The incentives available for the food processing sector and special measures taken under the Horticulture Technology Mission are likely to create a conducive environment in Himachal Pradesh for attracting more investment in Food Processing Industry.

Juvenile homes

*436. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many juvenile homes and rescue shelters for women are running at present, State-wise; and

(b) the grant per head for the inhabitants at these centres?