

**Technical assistance and advice to FPIs**

3326. SHRI AVINASH PANDE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any machinery has been established by Government to extend technical assistance and advice to industries of perishable food items such as fish, fruits, vegetables, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any mechanism to assess the performance of such machinery; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has an Institute engaged in research and development activities in the food processing sector namely, Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT). The mandate of the Institute is to conduct and promote basic, applied and adoptive research and development in post harvest processing, preservation and value addition of cereal grains, pulses, millets and oilseeds, crops of wetlands, flood affected and storm prone regions, including plantation crops, spices and other important crops as well as conducting trainings to academicians, farmers, industry etc.

**Classrooms for universal primary and secondary education**

3327. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of classrooms required to meet the goal of providing universal primary and secondary education to the children in the country;
- (b) the total number of classrooms available in the country now in public sector and private sector; and
- (c) the manner in which Government proposes to fill the above gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI) : (a) It is estimated that approximately 2.91 lakh and 1.77 lakh classrooms are required at the elementary and secondary stage of education respectively.