

**Lack of research and skilled workers in FPI**

†2070. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a lack of skilled workers as well as research work in the rapidly growing food processing industry; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to do away these drawback?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The rapidly growing food processing industry in the country requires availability of matching number of skilled man power to sustain it on a continuous basis. As per the report of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) on "Human Resource and Skill requirements in the Food Processing Sector (2022)" there are gaps in terms of excess demand over supply in the organised sector at all levels, the gap is maximum when considering the demand for those trained by short-term courses with low educational qualification (below 10th/12th standard) where there is a required demand for about one lakhs trained persons annually against a supply of over 10,000 persons. This requirement will increase to over 5.3 lakhs if the unorganised sector is also taken into account. Further, the sector also requires application based research to meet the ever increasing industry and the consumer demand. The Ministry through its scheme is assisting application based projects, which would directly benefit the food processing sector.

(b) To overcome these draw backs, Ministry provides financial assistance as grant-in-aid under its scheme of Human Resource Development for (i) Creation of Infrastructure facilities for running degree/diploma courses in food processing sector, (ii) Entrepreneurship Development Programme, (iii) Setting up of Food Processing Training Centres and (iv) Training at Recognised National/State Level Institutions sponsored by MoFPI.

For promoting research work in the sector, Ministry provides financial assistance as grant-in-aid under its scheme for Research and Development in Processed Food Sector. The Financial Assistance is given as grant-in-aid to various Universities, IITs, Central/State Government Institutions, Public Funded Organizations etc. The Scheme aims to undertake demand driven R&D work in the field of Food Processing Sector for product and process development, improved packaging, value addition and leading to innovative products and processes with commercial value.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.