

(b) whether it is also a fact that Railways are also considering to introduce high speed trains to connect towns to State capitals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Public-Private-Partnership in food processing units

*277. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 60 per cent fruits and vegetables get wasted every year due to shortage of food processing units;

(b) if so, whether Government would include private players and small and medium enterprises to increase the number of food processing units with subsidy to prevent such wastage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of food processing units established in the country under Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No Sir. A comprehensive quantitative assessment of harvest and post harvest losses for agricultural produces has been carried out by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET). As per the study report published on 21st April 2010, the losses in selected fruits and vegetables were found to be in the range of 5.8% to 18%.

(b) Government is implementing various schemes wherein private players and small and medium enterprises are provided financial assistance in the form of grant in aid to set up food processing units in the country.

(c) Government is implementing a scheme of Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of food processing industries wherein grant-in-aid @ of 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil work subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh in general areas 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in North Eastern and difficult areas is provided. Ministry has not supported any food processing unit under this Scheme in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode.