

NIFTEM, IICPT, IGPB and NMPPB has been established to give further impetus to the development of food processing sector.

Assistance to industries of perishable food items

1320. 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) and (b) The scheme for Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of FPIs is applicable to promote latest technology in the preservation of perishable commodities including horticultural produce processing. The scheme envisages to extend the financial assistance for setting up of new food processing units as well as Technological Upgradation and Expansion of existing units in the country. Ministry extends financial assistance in form of grants-in-aid to entrepreneurs @ 25% of the cost of Plant and Machinery and Technical Civil Works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas and 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas.

Besides, Ministry of Food Processing Industry is encouraging setting up of Cold Chain facilities, value addition and preservation infrastructure which envisages financial assistance in the form of grants-in-aid @ 50% of the total cost of plant and machineries and technical civil works in general areas and 75% for North Eastern Region and difficult areas subject to a maximum of Rs. 10.00 crore.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing policies and programmes for promotion and growth of food processing sector. Ministry undertake regular review of the performance of the schemes.

Assistance to Rajasthan for food processing sector

1321. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state: