

maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and ITDP areas. All implementing agencies engaged in Setting Up/Expansion/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries covering all segments are eligible for financial assistance. The implementing agencies include Central/State Government Organisation/PSUs/NGOs/Cooperative Societies and Private Sector Units and Individuals. The details of the financial assistance provided for the State of Odisha under the Scheme is as below:—

(Rs in lakhs)

2009-10		2010-11		2011-12 (as on 30.11.2011)	
No. of units approved	Amount released	No. of units approved	Amount released	No. of units approved	Amount released
6	84.4	8	200.875	2	8.44

(d) The food processing units are not established in the States under the guidance of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, however, Ministry supports the existing food processing units for expansion/modernization by providing grant-in-aid in accordance to the guidelines under the scheme for Technology Upgradation/ Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries.

(e) The data on production of processed food in the country including the State of Odisha are not centrally maintained in the Ministry.

(f) and (g) Government has formulated and is implementing several Plan Schemes to provide financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of Food Processing Units, Creation of Infrastructure, Support to R&D, Human Resources Development, Food Testing Labs, Implementation of Quality Systems such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), besides other promotional measures to encourage development of food processing industries. Moreover, the Government has taken several steps like tax reduction, waiver/reduction of excise duty, reduction of custom duty on specific food items with a view to encourage the growth of Food Processing Industries and make them more competitive.

Scheme for farmers

2716. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state whether there is any initiative and programme to teach rural farmers of its various schemes and technology of which they can take benefit of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): Yes, Sir.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance for the benefit of farmers under its below indicated Plan Schemes:—

(a) Human Resource Development (HRD) Scheme aims at training the farmers, prospective entrepreneurs and un-employed youth in an intensive manner so as to sensitise them to various aspects of food processing as also to provide them “Hands-on” experience to enable them to establish food processing industries particularly by utilising locally grown raw material under its component of Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDPs) and Food Processing Training Centres (FPTCs).

(b) Scheme of Promotional Activities also provides financial assistance for organizing workshops and seminars etc. with an aim to create awareness generation about its various Plan Schemes as well focusing on the development of Food Processing Industries. Some of the programmes are related to sensitising the rural farmers and prospective agro food processing entrepreneurs regarding various technologies available as well as advancements in food processing sector so that value addition is resorted to for their Agri/Horti Produce. Ministry also disseminates information regarding food processing industries and familiarize the stakeholders including rural farmers regarding modern techniques of production and packaging as well as development of market and popularisation of processed food products through participation in exhibitions/fairs related to food processing sector including agri-business in the country.

Cold storage facilities

†2717. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether sufficient cold storage facilities have been created in every district;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether private operators providing cold storage facilities are charging heavy fees for them; and
- (d) if so, the action taken to regulate such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) and (b) A study conducted by the National Spot Exchange Ltd. (NSEL) in December, 2010 analyzed production, consumption and shelf life pattern of major fruits and vegetables. The Study has estimated cold storage requirements of 61.13 million tonnes in the country. The present capacity of cold storage has been worked out at 23.51 million MT. The cold storage gap of about 38 million metric tons has been worked out on the basis of peak season production and highest arrival/harvesting of storable fruits and vegetables in a month.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.