

(e) to (g) India is the second largest producer of fruits in the world with a production of 74.87 million MT as compared to 122.18 million MT in China. There is no comparable data to assess the level of food processing in India as compared to other neighbouring countries including China.

(h) Department of Agriculture & Cooperation under the two centrally sponsored schemes namely Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States (HMNEH) and National Horticulture Mission (NHM) is providing financial assistance for integrated post harvest management, setting up of processing units and establishment of market infrastructure etc., which help in minimizing the wastage of fruits and vegetables. In addition, financial assistance is provided under National Horticulture Board (NHB) scheme for establishment of cold storage facilities.

Ban by China on import of Indian Basmati rice, fruits and vegetables

4692. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China has banned import of Indian Basmati rice, fruits and vegetables;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action Government has taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Market access for agricultural commodities is based on Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) by the importing country. PRA for import of Basmati rice from India has been completed by China. Besides, India already has market access in China for bitter melon, grapes and mangoes. The requisite technical information for PRA of a number of other fruits and vegetables has been submitted by India to China.

Technical posts lying vacant

4693. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of various technical posts lying vacant in the Department of Pharmaceuticals;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a number of issues requiring technical expertise on pharmaceuticals have been shelved/delayed;

(c) whether Government has any proposal to create more senior level technical posts to help pharmaceutical industry meet the challenges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) The following technical posts are lying vacant in the Department of Pharmaceuticals of the Ministry:

Sl.No.	Name of the posts	Sanctioned strength	In-position	Vacancy
1	Additional Industrial Advisor	1	0	1
2	Deputy Industrial Advisor	3	1	2
3	Assistant Industrial Advisor	1	0	1

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to create senior level technical posts to help pharmaceutical industry to meet the challenges. The Department is preparing a proposal to create posts of the level of Joint Secretary, Director, Deputy Secretary and other technical posts. The details are being worked out.

Benefits to doctors by drug manufacturing companies

†4694. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drug manufacturing companies in the country extend benefits to doctors etc. to promote sale of their drugs;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government had taken a decision to stop this system; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this direction, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (d) There were some reports in the newspapers in the recent past regarding promotional expenses being made by the Pharma Companies. The reports suggested that some unethical marketing practices are being followed by certain pharma companies. Keeping in view the seriousness of the allegations made in the media reports, this Department felt the need to take

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.