

Mega Food Parks

1308. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Food Parks expected to commence full commercial operation out of the 15 Mega Food Parks approved by the Ministry;
- (b) whether these Food Parks are aimed at giving boost to food processing sector to benefit farmers as well as increase processing of food products; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to set up more Food Parks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) The Ministry has so far approved 30 Mega Food Park projects out of which 14 projects have been accorded 'Final' approval and the remaining 16 projects have been accorded 'In-principle' approval. Out of the 14 projects which have been accorded 'Final Approval', 2 projects in Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand are partially operational while 2 others in Assam and West Bengal are nearing completion. 5 more projects, one each in Punjab, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Gujarat and Tripura are expected to be completed in 2013-14. The remaining 5 projects in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra are likely to be completed in 2014-15.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Successful implementation of Mega Food Parks is expected to provide remunerative price to farmers, reduce wastage of agricultural produce, build capacity of producers and processors and create efficient supply chain from farm to market.

It is expected that on an average, each project will have around 30-35 food processing units with a collective investment of Rs. 250 crores that would eventually lead to an annual turnover of about Rs. 450-500 crores and creation of direct and indirect employment to the extent of about 30,000 persons.

The Ministry has already initiated process for seeking approval of the Competent Authority for upscaling of the Scheme.

Separate mission for food processing sector

1309. SHRI PALVAI GOVARDHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts Government is making to give thrust to food processing sector;
- (b) whether there is any proposal to start a separate mission for food processing sector on the lines of other missions;