

Investment in food processing sector

†2088. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes to make heavy investment in food processing sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) by when this investment is proposed to be made; and
- (d) the areas identified for such investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) to (d) Government has made a plan allocation of Rs. 5990 crores during the Twelfth Plan for Food Processing Sector to implement the Schemes of Infrastructure Development; Technology Upgradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries, Quality Assurance, Codex Standard, R&D and other Promotional activities, Human Resource Development, National Mission on Food Processing and Strengthening of Institutions for promotion of food processing industries in the country.

Control on prices of food items

2089. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps to control the steep rise in the prices of processed food items;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

Investment by private sector

2090. DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (a) how much investment has been made by the private sector industries—small, medium and large in the food processing sector;
- (b) the obstacles in increasing this investment; and
- (c) whether Government has any plan to overcome those obstacles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT): (a) As per the Annual Survey of Industries 2010-11 (provisional results), the total Investment (sum of Fixed capital and Physical working capital) in Registered Food Processing Units was of the order of Rs. 2,49,337 crore in the country.

(b) Supply Chain infrastructural gaps *i.e.* lack of processing, storage and distribution facilities is identified as the main constraint faced by the food processing sector.

(c) In order to address the problem of infrastructure gap in food processing sector, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing a scheme for infrastructural development which includes components like (i) Mega Food Parks; (ii) Cold Chain, Value addition and preservation infrastructure; and (iii) Modernization of Abattoirs. As a component of the centrally sponsored scheme of National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP), financial assistance by way of grant-in-aid is also extended to entrepreneurs for modernization, expansion and setting up of processing units for fruits and vegetables, meat, milk, fish, grain (oil mill; Rice, pulse and flour milling), consumer products (including bakery units) etc.

Survey to evaluate quality of higher education

2091. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey/study has been carried out recently to evaluate the quality of higher education in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of higher education in the prevailing global scenario?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) No such study has been conducted by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).