

(c) to (e) The Government through its various Plan Schemes and initiatives aims at development of a strong and dynamic food processing sector which plays a vital role in diversification and commercialization of agriculture, enhancement of shelf life, value addition to agricultural produce, employment generation and enhancement of income of farmers besides creating markets for export of agro foods.

Incentives for FPIs in backward States

67. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans any special proposals to encourage Food Processing Industries (FPIs) in States which do not have adequate mineral resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are any proposals to incentivize FPIs in backward States like Bihar; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) For promotion of setting up of Food Processing Industries in the country including Bihar, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP).

Under the Mission, financial assistance is provided for setting up/ modernization/technology up-gradation of food processing Industries @ 25 % of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to a maximum of Rs. 50.00 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to maximum of Rs. 75.00 lakhs in difficult areas such as North-Eastern States, hilly States like Uttarakhand/ Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and ITDP areas in the country. Apart from this, financial assistance under the Mission is also provided for Cold Chain for non-horticultural products, Human Resource Development, Promotional Activities. The NMFP is being implemented by the States/UT Governments.