NMFP is implemented with financial contribution of Government of India and States/UTs in the ratio of 75:25, except for North-Eastern States, where the ratio is 90:10. For UTs, it is funded 100 per cent as grant by Government of India.

Improving food processing industries

443. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a)   whether any concrete measures have been taken during the last three years by Government to improve the food processing industries in the country;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c)   how Government is making food processing industry globally competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)   The Government is implementing Central Sector Schemes for Infrastructure Development (a) Mega Food Parks (b) Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure (c) Setting up/Modernization of Abattoirs, Scheme of Technology Upgradation / Establishment/ Modernization of Food Processing Industries, Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research & Development and Other Promotional Activities, Scheme for Human Resource Development and Scheme of Strengthening of Institutions for development of food processing industries in the country.

The Government has launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) *w.e.f.* 01/04/2012, being implemented by the State Governments/Union Territories. The components of the NMFP are (i)Scheme of Technology up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries (ii) Scheme for Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non Horticulture-Products (iii) Scheme for Modernization of Abattoirs (iv) Scheme for Human Resource Development (v) Scheme for Promotional Activities (vi) Scheme for Creating Primary Processing Centres/Collection Centres in Rural Areas (vii) Modernization of Meat -Shops and (viii) Reefer Vans vehicles.

(c)   Government is motivating the food processing industries for adoption of food safety and quality assurance mechanisms such as TQM including ISO: 14000, ISO: 22000, HACCP, GMP, GHP, to prepare them to face global competition, to enable adherence to

stringent quality and hygiene norms, to enhance product acceptance by overseas buyers and to keep Indian industry technologically abreast of international best practices to make food processing industry globally competitive.

Abolition of obsolete laws

444. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be please to state:

(a)   whether Government is aware that Jain Committee was appointed to identify obsolete laws in the country;

(b)   if so, how many laws were identified and abolished till date;

(c)   how many obsolete laws are still operative in the country and whether Government intends to abolish them; and

(d)   if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)   1382 Acts were recommended for repeal and 415 Acts have been repealed so far.

(c) and (d) Review of all laws, including those enacted during the British era, with a view to bring them in harmony with the current economic, social and political situation in the country is a continuous process. This task is undertaken by different nodal Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government administering the respective laws allocated to them and generally by the Law Commission of India. The Government of India has constituted Twentieth Law Commission with effect from 1st September, 2012 for three-year's term. The Terms of Reference of the said Law Commission includes "Review/Repeal of obsolete laws".

Banning entry of criminals in Legislatures

445. SHRI H.K. DUA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government is planning any special law to ban entry of criminals into Parliament and State Legislatures;

(b)   the number of candidates with criminal background who contested the recent parliamentary election and how many of them have been elected; and