

processing sector. As per the study conducted by National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL) in 2010, the cold storage requirement in the country was of the order of 61.13 million MT. Based on the study and existing capacity, the current gap of cold chain capacity is around 29 million MT. Constraints in terms of supply chain, including Cold Chain, and lack of adequate processing capacity are important factors for low level of processing and higher level wastages of agri-produces. As per the study conducted by Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana published in 2010, the magnitude of wastage was ₹ 44,143 crore per annum at 2009 wholesale prices.

(d) It has been the endeavour of the Government to promote food processing industry in the country to reduce wastage of agricultural produces, control food inflation and ensure higher returns to the farmers. With a view to promote the sector, the Government has been strengthening infrastructure by supporting creation of Cold Chain, Mega Food Park and setting up/ modernization of Abattoirs under the Central Sector Scheme of Infrastructure Development. Ministry of Food Processing Industries has also launched a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme - National Mission on Food Processing (NMFP) - on 1st April, 2012 for promoting the sector through State/ UT Governments. The various schemes under the NMFP, *inter-alia*, include setting up/ modernisation of food processing units, setting up Cold Chain units for non-horticultural products, Primary Processing Centres/ Collection Centres in Rural Areas, setting up/ modernisation of meat shops, Reefer Vehicles, Human Resource Development and Promotional Activities.

Measures to prevent loss of fruits and vegetables

3079. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that even though India is the largest producer of several agriculture commodities, there are high levels of losses in the supply chain, mainly fruits and vegetables;

(b) if so, the magnitude of these losses;

(c) the details of measures taken to set up Mega Food Parks and cold chains, value addition and preservation infrastructure; and

(d) the progress made in this regard in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) and (b) A nation-wide study of quantitative assessment of harvest and post-harvest losses for 46 agricultural produces in 106 randomly selected districts was carried out by Central Institute of Post Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) Ludhiana, an ICAR institution. As per the report released in 2010, the extent of harvest and post-harvest losses in fruits vary from 5.8% to 18% and in case of vegetables from 6.88% to 12.98%. The study has estimated harvest and post-harvest losses of major agricultural produces at national level was of the order of ₹44143 crore per annum at 2009 wholesale prices.

(c) From time to time the Ministry of Food Processing Industries sanctions Mega Food Parks and Cold Chain Projects in pursuance of Expression of Interest (Eoi). So far, through such Eoi's, Ministry had approved 42 Mega Food Parks and 129 Cold Chain Projects in the country.

(d) A Mega Food Park sanctioned in the name of M/s Jharkhand Mega Food Park Private Limited at Getalsud, Ranchi. It is in an area of 51.50 acres at an approved project cost of ₹114.74 crore (Approx). Project approved on 27.03.2009. A grant of ₹50.00 crore has been approved by the Ministry to the project and ₹30.00 crore has been released till date. The Ministry has not sanctioned any cold chain project in the State of Jharkhand due to non receipt of eligible proposal.

Facilities to youth to set up food processing units

‡3080. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether special grant is given to the youth to set up food processing units, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether facilities would be provided to encourage the young men and women to set up food processing units, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) In order to facilitate prospective entrepreneurs including youths/women for setting up of food processing units, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) had launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.