

**National Food Processing Policy**

196. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on a new integrated National Food Processing Policy, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the fresh steps taken by Government to reduce large scale wastage of perishable fruits and vegetables in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The growth of the food processing industries helps in minimizing wastages of agriculture produce, ensure better income for farmers, provide employment opportunities and enhancing value addition of the agriculture produce. For promotion and development of food processing sector in the country, including Andhra Pradesh, Government is implementing various Central Sector Schemes, namely (1) Scheme for Infrastructure Development for Food Processing having components of (i) Mega Food Parks (ii) Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure and (iii) Setting-up/Modernization of Abattoirs (subsumed in NMFP *w.e.f.* 01.04.2014); (2) Scheme of Technology Up-gradation/Establishment/Modernization of Food Processing Industries; (3) Scheme for Quality Assurance, Codex Standards, Research and Development and Other Promotional Activities; (4) Scheme for Human Resource Development and (5) Scheme of Strengthening of Institutions.

During the Twelfth Five Year Plan the Government also launched Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'National Mission on Food Processing' (NMFP) for implementation through the State Governments/Union Territories including in the Andhra Pradesh. The components of the NMFP are (i) Technology Up gradation/Setting up/Modernization of Food Processing Units (ii) Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure for Non-Horticulture Products (iii) Setting-up/Modernisation of Abattoirs (*w.e.f.* 01.04.2014) (iv) Human Resource Development (v) Promotional Activities (vi) Creating Primary Processing Centers/Collection Centers in Rural Areas (vii) Modernisation of Meat Shops and (viii) Reefer Vehicles. State/Union Territory Governments were given the flexibility in selection of locations of projects as well as beneficiaries to harness the potential of value addition by using locally grown raw material for setting up food processing industries. However, NMFP has been delinked from Central Government support from the financial year 2015-16. The State Governments may decide to continue with the Mission out of their increased resources resulting from the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.