

(b) if so, whether Government would set up more Mega Food Parks in the country so that the wastage of fruits and vegetables could be checked and more persons could get employment; and

(c) if so, the plan made by Government for this purpose and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): (a) Yes, Sir. The study conducted by Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana has estimated that annual value of harvest and post-harvest losses of major agricultural produce including fruits and vegetables at national level was of the order of ₹ 92,651 crore based on production data of 2012-13 at 2014 wholesale prices.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been implementing Mega Food Park Scheme (MFPS) since Eleventh Five Year Plan to create modern infrastructure for the food processing including fruits and vegetables. Total 42 Mega Food Parks (MFPs) have been sanctioned by the Government for setting-up in the country. Till now, 37 projects have been approved for implementation. Out of these, 8 Mega Food Parks have become operational. Proposals under the scheme are invited through Expression of Interest (Eoi) from time to time against the vacancies created against cancellation/withdrawal. The willing entrepreneurs apply for setting up Mega Food Park in accordance with the conditions of the scheme guidelines and the projects are selected on merit based on appraisal carried out as per prefixed parameters notified in the scheme guidelines.

Deadlock over issue of appointment of Judges

1433. SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a deadlock between Government and the Supreme Court on the issue of appointment of Judges, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the clauses on which the Supreme Court has objected in the Memorandum of Procedure; and

(c) whether Government is considering to accept the objections of the Supreme Court to break the deadlock over the appointment process, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY) : (a) to (c) The Supreme Court *vide* its Order dated 16.12.2015 on

improvement in the 'Collegium System' have directed that the Government of India may finalize the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) by supplementing it in consultation with the Chief Justice of India. The Chief Justice of India will take a decision based on the unanimous view of the collegium comprising the four senior most puisne Judges of the Supreme Court.

The Government of India after due deliberations proposed changes in the existing MoPs. The effort of the Government is to supplement the existing MoP by making the appointment process transparent, fair, and accountable and at the same time ensuring the independence of Judiciary.

The changes proposed in the draft MoP's were sent to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India *vide* letter dated 22.3.2016. The response of the Supreme Court was received on 25.5.2016 and 01.07.2016. The responses are their views on various clauses given on the basis of the constitutional provisions and earlier judicial pronouncements.

At the initiative of the Government of India, the matter was taken up with the Supreme Court and the process of appointment of Judges has been resumed. During 2016, 110 Additional Judges of High Courts have been made Permanent. 4 and 52 Judges have been appointed in the Supreme Court and the High Courts respectively.

Special audit challenging observation of CAG

1434. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 678 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th April, 2016 and state:

(a) the basis on which Government decided to conduct special audit challenging the observation of CAG that Government has suffered a loss of ₹ 12,489 crore due to understating their adjusted gross revenue by telecommunication companies for the period between 2006-07 to 2009-10; and

(b) the basis and rationale on which the demands from telecom companies were reduced after special audit by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) The CAG has the powers to conduct audit of telecom companies as per Comptroller's and Auditor General (duties powers and conditions of service) Act, 1971 and the department has the powers to conduct the audit and Special audit of telecom companies as per clause 22.5 and 22.6 respectively; of the Unified Service License agreement or equivalent clause in other license agreements. CAG and department have independent powers of auditing.