

[23 July, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA .

an audit team. The replies of the concerned parties on the report of the audit team have been submitted to the court.

(e) The implementation of NRCP, which includes cleaning of Ganga and Yamuna rivers, is monitored by both the Government of India and the State Governments at various levels regularly. Funds are released to the implementing agencies/State Governments only after the receipt of proper Utilization Certificates authenticated by competent authorities.

Employment in FPIs

1092. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on the Food Processing Industries in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the number of people to whom employment has been provided in the industry during 2003-04 and likely to be provided in 2004-05, separately;

(b) the number of people to whom employment has been provided in the industry during 2003-04 and likely to be provided in 2004-05, separately;

(c) whether any target for creation of jobs has been fixed for the said period and the measures taken to achieve this target; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries spent Rs. 195.66 crores for the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) to (d) There is significant scope of growth of employment in food processing sector. In order to give boost to agro processing industries, the Government has announced on 8th July, 2004 in Parliament to allow under Income Tax Act, a deduction of 100% of profit for five years and 25% of profits for the next five years in case of new agro processing industries set up to process, preserve and package fruits and vegetables. Present excise duty of 16% on dairy machinery has been fully waived. Excise duty on meat, poultry and fish products has been reduced from 16% to 8%. Excise

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

duty on food grade hexane used in edible oil industry has been reduced from 32% to 16%. These tax incentives are likely to generate significant entrepreneurial activities resulting in substantial increase in employment opportunities in food processing sector. As food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, it is difficult to indicate precise information regarding employment provided or generated.

Statutory body on integrating food laws

1093. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up or have set up a statutory body to integrate food laws and make them more stringent and prepare a new set of food laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition of the statutory body;

(d) whether this new body will also be responsible for accrediting and certifying labs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAI): (a) to (e) A Group of Ministers (GOM) has been constituted by the Government to propose legislative and other changes for preparing a Modern Integrated Food Law and related regulations. As such, no details could be furnished.

Food Processing Projects

1094. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of food processing projects in the country in respect of products from milk-resources, fish-resources, flesh-resources, foodgrain-resources, fruit-resources and vegetable resources;

(b) the break-up of the food processing projects State-wise; and

(c) the number of projects forwarded by different State Governments