

scarce resources, I think, it is the duty of the Government to first give connectivity to the new capital of Amravati and, therefore, we are focussing on the line from Vijayawada to Guntur *via* Amravati which is going to be set up with an investment of ₹ 2,679 crores.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: Sir, my question pertains to ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chowdary, I will take care.

SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY: He is expected to answer the specific question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chowdary, you leave it to the Chair. I am here. That is what, I told the other Member also. Now, we will move to the next question.

R&D projects for food processing industries

*36. SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry has undertaken R&D projects for development of food processing industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and funds allocated therefor during Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of ongoing projects in private and public sector and action taken for their timely completion;

(d) whether India is processing food only to the extent of around 15 per cent as compared to 70-80 per cent in advanced countries;

(e) the efforts being made to increase processing to at least 25 per cent by 2020; and

(f) the status of food processing sector in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been implementing scheme for Research and Development in processed food sector the country. Under the scheme, financial assistance as grant- in-aid is given to various Universities, IITs, Central/

State Government Institutions, Government funded Organizations, R&D laboratories and CSIR recognized R&D units in private sector to promote and undertake demand driven R&D work in the field of processed food sector for product and process development, design and development of equipment, improved storage, shelf-life, packaging etc. Under the scheme so far 208 R&D projects have been sanctioned, out of this 151 projects have been completed.

Government organizations/Institutions/Universities are eligible for 100% grant-in-aid for the cost of equipment, consumables and expenditure related to Junior Research Fellow/Senior Research Fellow/Research Associate, while private Organizations/Institutions/Universities are eligible for 50% grant-in-aid for the equipment cost in general areas and 70% grant-in-aid in difficult areas for conducting such research activities.

During Twelfth Plan Period, the scheme was implemented through Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) of Department of Science and Technology. From 1st April, 2017 onwards, the scheme is being implemented directly by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. The funds allocated under the R&D scheme during the Twelfth Five Year Plan are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	Funds allocated (₹ in crores)
1.	2012-13	10.50
2.	2013-14	9.55
3.	2014-15	7.60
4.	2015-16	6.67
5.	2016-17	5.80

(c) Under the scheme, there are 57 number of ongoing R&D projects in Private and Public sector. For timely completion of these projects, periodic review of these projects is being carried out by the Ministry. The Ministry has been regularly following up the matter with the concerned Principal Investigators/Institutes/Organizations for submission of Project progress or Final Project Completion Report (FPCR).

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, the level of processing of food is estimated to be less than 15% in India as compared to 70-80% in advanced countries. In order to increase the level of processing, Government have launched a new Central Sector Scheme - Pradhan Mantri

Kissan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), with an allocation of ₹ 6000 crores for the period of 2016-20 coterminous with the Fourteenth Finance Commission cycle. Under the PMKSY, following schemes are being implemented:

- (i) Mega Food Parks;
- (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure;
- (iii) Food safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure;
- (iv) Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters;
- (v) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages;
- (vi) Creation/Expansion of Food processing and Preservation Capacities;
- (vii) Human Resources and Institutions.

In addition, the Government have also undertaken various policy measures for development of food processing sector and to increase level of food processing.

(f) As per the latest Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), 2015-16, conducted by Central Statistics Office, the total number of factories/units in the registered food processing sector in Karnataka was estimated at 2,159 with fixed capital of ₹ 21, 642 crore which was 10.49 % of the total fixed capital at all India level in registered food processing sector.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries has assisted Food Processing sector in Karnataka through its various schemes. Ministry has approved 2 Mega Food Park projects, 8 Integrated Cold Chain Projects, 5 projects under Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing/ Preservation Capacities Scheme, 6 Food Testing Laboratories under various schemes of PMKSY and has undertaken promotional activities to attract investment in the sector.

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, I would like to know from hon. Minister about one of the major challenges before the food processing industry in our country, that is, lack of proper infrastructure. As per the estimates, only two per cent of agriculture produce is preserved for processing in our country due to lack of storage facilities as compared to the United States, where 70 per cent of the agriculture produce is processed. Sir, under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, the Minister has stated that ₹ 6,000 crores have been allocated for the period 2016-20. Sir, 2016-17 and 2017-18 are already over.

Can I know the progress achieved in each of the Schemes, particularly with reference to infrastructure for the food processing industry?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, the hon. Member has asked a very relevant question and he is absolutely right that the amount of food-processing which is being done in our country is extremely nascent despite the fact that we are one of the largest producers of food in the world. We produce the maximum amount of milk, the second largest amount of fruits, vegetables and cereals. But if you get a figure of 2 per cent, which is the processing level of fruits and vegetables, overall we process only about 10 per cent whereas the smaller countries process much more than that. One of the main reasons for that is the lack of infrastructure, as mentioned by the Member, which is why over the last four years this Ministry has focussed on the creation of infrastructure not only on paper but actually grounding of it. Sir, to give certain examples, this Ministry had a Mega Food Park Scheme, where 42 mega food parks had been sanctioned in 2008, and one park should take two years to complete. But from the year 2008 till 2014, in six years, out of 42, only two parks got grounded, but in the last four years, we have completed 13 more. So, it is an increase of almost 550 per cent of the operational parks. Sir, the same thing is with the cold chains, which were started in 2010, but only 37 out of 97 cold chains were completed. We came and sanctioned 110 more as well as completed 87 of them. So, we have been working on creation of infrastructure for this processing level to increase. The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana was launched in May, last year, and it took time for the Scheme guidelines to be framed. It is a bouquet of seven schemes, where mega food park and cold chains are also part of it, and we have added three new schemes to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The problem with these Ministers is that they are full of information but I have problem of time. Second supplementary.

SHRI K. C. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, it is mentioned in the reply that out of 208 R&D projects sanctioned, only 151 are completed. May I know whether any significant output is received from the projects completed and how they have helped in promoting food-processing industry? Madam, I would also like to know why year after year the allocation is reduced from ₹ 10.50 crores in 2014, to ₹ 5.80 crores currently.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, we had outsourced the R&D Scheme to Science and Technology Ministry because they had the expertise which we did not to choose the projects, and we found that they were doing more of academic kind of

research which is why, last year, we decided to take it back so that it is now farmer as well as industry-oriented. Sir, the reason for the less allocation is that the priority was to create infrastructure, R& D is not really the forte of the Food Processing Ministry. We have NIFTEM and IIFPT, two institutions, where research is done. Our focus is on creating the infrastructure, but now that R&D has been taken by us, we are going to give it a lot more focus. The hon. Member has asked as to what are the successful stories. I would like to mention that one of the most successful stories is a mobile food-processing van which was made by the Indian Institute of Food Processing in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, where the farmers who want to value add or to preserve, they do not have to transport and go to an industry. This mobile van goes from village to village, helping them process at their doorsteps. So, it has increased their remuneration. Another thing which has been extremely popular is a completely automated small onion processing unit, which is again an innovation by IIFPT where smaller onions have been packaged in a mechanised form and this has increased the remuneration by almost ₹ 10,000 per acre, and each farmer has gained about ₹ 32,000 to ₹ 40,000 due to this technology. We have got many such examples.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Manoj Kumar Jha.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to ask a question to hon. Minister as to what is the current status of food-processing sector in Bihar. And together with that, in last one year, has the Central Government received any proposal from the State Government in this regard?

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have the information right now, please give it; otherwise, you can collect the information and send it to the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, I would like to take this opportunity to say that we could do a lot more in Bihar than what is being done. Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to the hon. Member and to other hon. Members as well, to come forward with proposals for their constituency or State, wherein they are interested in helping out the farmers. For this, the Ministry of Food Processing Industry has a number of ongoing schemes where we give subsidies from five crore of rupees up to fifty crore of rupees to set up infrastructure for processing and preservation and also for value addition. There is a special scheme of backward and forward linkages, especially targeted towards the farmers. Yes, from the State of Bihar, we have not received too many proposals. We have an ongoing mega food park at Khagaria. I think, we had to cancel two

others which I had even allocated but they could not meet the criteria. But, at the moment, what we have got is one mega food park, which is ongoing, and we have got a total of four cold chains, which are ongoing.

And, Sir, as I said earlier, I would appeal to you to please apply in the backward-forward linkage scheme as well as in the cluster scheme.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Sir, during an answer given in this House a few years ago, the hon. Minister had stated that post-harvest, fruits and vegetables worth one lakh crore of rupees go waste. Thereafter, improvements have been made, and, as the Minister has outlined, there are many schemes, which are helping to reduce this wastage.

My question is about the incentives which are being offered by the Central Government. How many units in the country have availed of those incentives, and, if the Minister has figures, please also tell us, what is the total quantum of amount, which has been distributed to these units as subsidy?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, the entire Budget of my Ministry is basically to create this infrastructure and, as the House may be aware, this was one of the Ministries, in which the Budget was doubled in this financial year. Our entire Budget goes towards the schemes which are mostly, almost 99 per cent, for infrastructure creation besides the two institutes that are run by us.

The hon. Member is absolutely right that one of the studies, which was done by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, showed that almost one lakh crore worth of foodstuffs is wasted or rots in our country, which happens due to lack of proper infrastructure during harvest, transportation and storage. This is why, Sir, through our mega food park scheme for processing, through our cold chain scheme, through our mini food park, through our units, through our backward-forward linkage scheme, the entire amount of six thousand crore of rupees of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana — which is going to leverage another ₹ 31,000 crore worth of investment in this sector — is going to process agro produce of almost 3,34,000 million metric tonnes worth one lakh crore of rupees.

So, we are working on the grounding of all this, and, I can assure the House that with regard to all the ongoing projects of 42 mega food parks, 337 cold chains as well as three new schemes, which are still ongoing, we are on target to ensure that they are grounded within the time period given. As you know, setting up of an industry takes time

and because of the seasonality of the raw material of a food processing industry, it has a longer gestation period than all others. So, as I said, we have had an increase by almost 550 per cent in the grounding of our mega food parks, by 130 per cent in our cold chains and if we talk about the employment created, farmers benefited or agro produce, which is processed or preserved, these figures have gone up ten-fold by what it was four years ago.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The problem is really humongous. Fruits and vegetables are perishable as farmers do not have facilities of cold storage, refrigerated vans or food processing. The fruits and vegetables perish and the farmer loses. I can understand that a good improvement has been made but the challenge is very big and the food processing is one way for sustainable agriculture.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to take this opportunity to request you to appeal to the Members to please bring in proposals and apply. It is all online. We have several schemes for preservation and processing but few proposals come up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is why, I have added my words and expressed my concern and interest in this matter.

डा. अशोक वाजपेयी: माननीय सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि उत्तर प्रदेश जैसे बड़े राज्य में, जहां की आबादी 22 करोड़ से भी अधिक है, विकसित देशों की तुलना में 10% से भी कम खाद्य प्रसंस्करण इकाइयां होंगी। बहुत सारे खाद्यान्नों के उत्पादनों में उत्तर प्रदेश देश का अग्रणी राज्य है, इसे दृष्टिगत रखते हुए क्या उत्तर प्रदेश में आप नई खाद्य प्रसंस्करण इकाइयों को खुलवाए जाने के लिए कोई ऐसा अध्ययन करवाएंगे, जिनको लगाने में निजी क्षेत्र के उद्यमी आकर्षित हों, ताकि उत्तर प्रदेश में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण के क्षेत्र में कोई बड़ा काम किया जा सके और लाभकारी योजनाओं का लाभ भी उठाया जा सके?

श्रीमती हरसिमरत कौर बादल: महोदय, माननीय सांसद को मैं बताना चाहूंगी कि इन्होंने बिल्कुल ठीक बोला है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में बहुत सारा potential है और यह एक राज्य था, जहां पर न ही कोई हमारा mega food park allot हुआ था, जिसके कारण खास जो cancellations आईं, मैंने उनको सिर्फ उन स्टेट्स के लिए किया, जहां कभी कोई mega food park नहीं था, उनके लिए दिया। खुशी की बात यह है कि 3 mega food parks उत्तर प्रदेश में अलॉट हुए हैं। आपको मालूम है कि नोएडा में जो पतंजलि बाबा रामदेव लगा रहे हैं, एक मिर्जापुर में और एक मथुरा में, तो इनको जो आपत्तियां आ रही हैं, उन सब को sort out करके we are on track. इसके अलावा सर, उत्तर प्रदेश में जो हमने काफी सारी cold chain allot की हैं, तकरीबन 21 cold chains allot की गई हैं, तो इनमें से 8 complete हो गयी हैं और 13 ongoing हैं। इसके अलावा backward-forward linkages में, उत्तर

प्रदेश में तकरीबन एक backward-forward linkage scheme में और 2 mini food parks भी अलॉट किए गये और mega food parks के अन्दर भी यूनिट लगाने के लिए 14 अलॉट किए गए हैं। एक बार फिर मैं सांसद जी को बोलूंगी कि जब "UP Investors Summit" हुआ था, वहां मैं खुद गयी थी और "सम्पदा स्कीम" के बारे में वहां बताया था। हमारी राज्य मंत्री जी उसी राज्य से आती हैं, उन्होंने भी वहां काफी सारी मीटिंग्स की हैं, मेरे सचिव भी गये हैं और मैं खुद भी जाती रहती हूं, लेकिन जब तक अपने राज्यों से या वहां के लोग अप्लाई नहीं करेंगे, हम उनको subsidy and infrastructure लगाने की मदद नहीं कर सकते, because this is a scheme, where people have to apply.

Suicide by farmers

*37. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contrary to the claims of the Central and State Governments, the number of farmers committing suicide has consistently increased in Maharashtra and other parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last two years, year-wise and State-wise, along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the effective measures Government proposes to take to prevent suicide by farmers in Maharashtra and rest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs compiles and disseminates information on suicides, in its publication titled 'Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India' (ADSI). These Reports on suicides are available upto 2015 on its website. The Reports for the year 2016 onwards have not been published as on date. However, NCRB has provided data relating to suicides for the year 2016 (provisional) to this Ministry. As per the ADSI Reports for the year 2015 and data as provided by NCRB for the year 2016 (provisional), the total number of suicides by farmers and agricultural labourers in the country State-wise is given in Annexure-I (See below). The number of suicide by farmers and agricultural labourers during 2016 has come down approximately by 9.77% from 12602 to 11370.

In the State of Maharashtra, the number of suicide by farmers and agricultural labourers during 2015 was 4291, while in the year 2016, it was 3661, which is approximately 14.68% less as compared to the year 2015.