

of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Products. In case of North East Region, the capacity above 1000 MT are also eligible for subsidy. The projects, which are set up in conformity with technical standards for energy efficiency and environmental safety energy and multi chambers, only are considered under the Scheme.

(d) National Horticulture Board is implementing a Scheme “Market Information Service for Horticulture Crops” to generate information on wholesale prices, arrivals and trends in various markets of the country for important fruits, vegetables and flowers, etc.

Challenges in food processing sector

864. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the food processing sector of the country is facing extreme challenge in terms of poor supply chain linkages, lack of skilled manpower and low adherence to quality standards; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, in order to further strengthen and meet the challenges in Food Processing Sector in the country, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) with an allocation of ₹ 6,000 crore for period 2016-20 co-terminus with the 14th Finance Commission cycle. The PMKSY has seven component schemes *i.e.* (i) Mega Food Parks; (ii) Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure; (iii) Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure; (iv) Human Recourses and Institutions; (v) Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters; (vi) Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages; and (vii) Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities.

Further, the MoFPI has launched a new Central Sector Scheme “Operation Greens” for integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) crops value chain, with an outlay of ₹ 500 crore to, *inter alia*, promote Farmers Producers Organization (FPO), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management of FPOs on 5/11/2018. The scheme is implemented in top nine, TOP crops producing states on pilot basis.

Under all these schemes financial assistance as capital subsidy in the form of grants-in-aid is provided to the eligible applicants against the Expression of Interest (Eoi) issued by the MoFPI from time to time to set up food processing industry/projects/units. Individuals,

farmers, Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs), entrepreneurs, cooperatives, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Private Companies and central/State PSUs etc. are eligible for financial assistance. The rate of subsidy ranges from 35% to 75% of the eligible project cost subject to the specified limit depending on the scheme and location of the project.

Opportunities in agro-processing sector

865. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge opportunities in the agro-processing sector are not exploited properly and the rate of investment, both private and public, is very low;

(b) if so, the remedial measures that are proposed to be taken to improve this sector; and

(c) whether Government is considering a proposal to remove the Essential Commodities Act and Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) which are considered to be a hurdle in developing the agro-processing sector, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI): (a) and (b) To exploit the huge untapped potential and opportunities in the food processing sector by leveraging private investment in the creation of supportive infrastructure and logistics requirement along the entire value/supply chain of the food processing the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) with the following scheme components to invest ₹6000 crore during the entire Fourteenth Finance Commission period:

1. Mega Food Parks;
2. Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure;
3. Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities;
4. Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters;
5. Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages;
6. Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure; and
7. Human Resources and Institutions

The Ministry is also implementing the scheme “Operation Greens” as a vertical of