(c) whether the domestic dairy producers have reacted on the FTA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the proposal of Government to sustain domestic productivity and employment in the face of competition therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) No, Sir. During the 3rd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RECP) Leaders Summit which was held on 4th November, 2019 in Bangkok, India stated that the current structure of RCEP did not reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or fully address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in the light of which India did not join the consensus. The Government had held regular stakeholders' consultations with industry, exporters, and trade experts for taking inputs for formulating India's positions in Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RECP).

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply at (a).

Hygiene and quality of food processing units

1380. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that food processing and packaging industry is growing very fast and unregulated;

(b) if so, the details of checks implemented to control hygiene and quality of food processing units;

(c) whether Government is also able to check the use of harmful chemicals and preservatives which are injurious to human health; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Government of India is aware that during the last 5 years ending 2017-18, Food Processing sector has been growing at an Average Annual Growth Rate (AAGR) of around 8.41 per cent Similarly, as per Department of Commerce, the food packaging industry is also growing at 13-15% annually.

Food processing and packaging industry is regulated by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), an autonomous statutory body under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

As per information provided by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), the hygiene and quality standards of food processing units and food products are specified in Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011, Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011, Food Safety and Standards (Health Supplements, Nutraceuticals, Food for Special Dietary Use, Food for Special Medical Purpose, Functional Food and Novel Food) Regulations, 2016, Food Safety and Standards (Packaging) Regulations, 2018, FSS (Organic Food) Regulations etc.

Further, the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011 prescribe Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs)/tolerance limits for various harmful substances like heavy metals, pesticides and antibiotic residues in food commodities etc. Also the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011 provide, *inter-alia*, for restriction on use of certain chemicals such as calcium carbide in artificial ripening of food, formalin as preservative in fish etc.

In addition, the requirements regarding adherence to hygiene and sanitary standards by Food Business Operators, including food processing units, are specified in Schedule 4 of Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Regulations, 2011. The implementation and enforcement of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and Rules and Regulations made thereunder primarily rests with the State/UT Governments, hence regular surveillance, monitoring, inspections of premise of food business operators are carried out by Food Safety Officials of States/UTs. Where any violation is noticed, regular action such as improvement notice/ penal action is initiated against the defaulting Food Business Operators.

Regarding hygiene and sanitary conditions, FSSAI has also notified Food Safety and Standards (Food Safety Audit) Regulations, 2018 on 28.08.2018. It provides for recognition of NABCB accredited agencies to conduct audits to ascertain the compliance with standards of food safety and hygiene prescribed under Schedule 4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses),

2011. Twenty-four (24) agencies notified so far have been used by FSSAI for auditing municipal slaughter houses, educational institutions and canteens of CRPF establishments.

FSSAI also provides training to Food Safety Supervisors of various food business establishments for capacity building on fulfillment of hygiene and sanitary requirements. More than 2 lakh such supervisors have already been trained.

Investment promotion in food processing industries

1381. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by Government to promote investment in food processing industry since 2014, year-wise;

(b) the details of the funds and resources allocated for promoting food processing industry, State-wise and year-wise, since 2014; and

(c) the details of the major challenges faced by the food processing industry and the steps taken to ease these constraints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI): (a) The year-wise measures taken by the Government to promote investment in food processing industries since 2014 is given in the Statement-I (*See* below).

(b) Under the schemes of Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), no State-wise allocation of funds is made. The schemes of MoFPI are demand driven under which capital subsidy in the form of Grants-in-Aid is provided to the individuals, farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Entrepreneurs, Cooperatives, Societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Private Companies and Central/State PSUs etc. for setting up of food processing industries/projects/units in the country. Financial assistance to the eligible applicants are provided against the expression of interests (Eol) issued by the MoFPI from time to time. The year-wise allocation of funds for implementation of various Central Sector Schemes (now subsumed under the umbrella scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana with additional new schemes) since 2014 is given in the Statement-II (*See* below). However, the MoFPI was making State/UT-wise