

- (v) Central Government agencies becoming shareholders in the SPV, can only hold upto 26 percent of equity in the SPV. However, there will be no such restriction on State Govt./ State Govt. entities/ Cooperatives.
- (vi) Every SPV will publish the user charges/hiring rates for common facilities and lease rental rates for plots and factory buildings for MSEs in the Mega Food Park on their websites for wider information of the prospective investors. Rate of plots in the Mega Food Park may also be made available to Ministry of Food Processing Industries and State Government concerned for uploading on their websites. SPVs are not permitted to sell plots/facilities in Mega Food Parks and can only give plots/facilities on lease to other food processing units.
- (vii) The common facilities in the park cannot be sold or leased out. They can only be offered to units on rental basis.

Programme Management Agency (PMA)

The Ministry will appoint a Program Management Agency (PMA) to assist it in implementation of the Scheme. The PMA will be a reputed institution with extensive experience in project development, management, financing and implementation of infrastructure projects.

Project Management Consultant (PMC)

In addition to the PMA, for ensuring smooth implementation of projects at ground level, Ministry has drawn up a panel of Project Management Consultants (PMC) with experience in preparation of DPRs for large projects and in project implementation. Any of these Ministry's empaneled agencies may be engaged by the SPVs for preparation of DPRs and for assistance in implementation.

Time schedule

The time schedule for completion and successful operationalization of a Mega Food Park project is 30 months from the date of final approval to the project.

Research and development in food processing sector

745. LT. GEN. (DR.) D.P. VATS (RETD.):
SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has felt the need to focus attention on the research and development of food processing sector to enable farmers to earn more benefits;
- (b) if so, the response of Government in this regard;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal to make food processing sector more farmer friendly, and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI): (a) and (b) Research and Development has been one of the focus areas for the Ministry. The Ministry has accordingly been implementing scheme for Research and Development in the food processing sector since 9th Plan. Various areas relating to food processing such as product and process development; design and development of equipment; improved storage, shelf-life, packaging etc.; are supported under the Scheme. Govt. organizations/Institutions/Universities are eligible for 100% grant-in-aid towards cost of equipment, consumables, etc. whereas private organizations/Institutions/Universities are eligible for 50% grant-in-aid towards equipment cost in general areas and 70 % grant-in-aid in difficult areas for conducting such research activities. Improvement and innovation achieved through research projects w.r.t. processing, packaging, storage, distribution technology benefits farmers eventually.

(c) and (d) The Ministry is also implementing the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojna (PMKSY) aimed for creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet; for the growth of food processing sector and help in providing better returns to farmers, creating employment opportunities especially in the rural areas, reducing wastage of agricultural produce, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods. Further, the decision of Government of India allowing 100% FDI in food processing under automatic route and 100% FDI in trading, including e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured and/or produced in India, is likely to give impetus to farmer's income and also generate more employment through food processing logistics, retail chains and local sourcing.