

Setting up of Mega Food Park in Western Odisha

1524. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state whether the Ministry has any plan to have a Mega Food Park in Western Odisha, which is an industrial hub and a major source of agricultural produces?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI): Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not establish Mega Food Parks in the country on its own. However, Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing Mega Food Park Scheme as a sub-scheme under the umbrella scheme - Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) to create modern infrastructure for the food processing. The proposals under Mega Food Park Scheme for setting up of Mega Food Parks in the country are invited through Expression of Interest (EoI) from time to time. Selection of suitable proposals for these projects is done as per the Scheme guidelines, based on the merit, as per the prefixed criteria. Recently, Ministry has invited proposal/EoI on 09.02.2020 with last date of submission as 31.05.2020 for establishment of Mega Food Parks in the country. No proposal for setting up of Mega Food Park in Western Odisha has been received against this EoI. However, Ministry has already accorded final approval to Mega Food Park projects at Rayagada and Khordha districts in the state of Odisha.

Setting up of Food Testing and Certification Lab in Western Odisha

1525. SHRI SUJEET KUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no food testing and certification Lab at NIT Rourkela, a Central institute in Western Odisha, despite having a full-fledged department of FoodProcess Engineering for academics and research; and

(b) whether there are any plans to have a food testing and certification lab thereto cater to the need of food processing units in the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI RAMESWAR TELI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has not approved any particular project for Food Testing and certification lab at NIT Rourkela in Odisha. However, the Ministry has approved four Food Testing Lab projects in Odisha with a view to catering to the needs of the food processing units in the State.