

As regards food processing industries in Small Scale sector is concerned, according to information available from the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the employment in the food processing units during 2005-06 is estimated to be around 42.87 lakhs. Out of the above, those who are working in the unregistered sector is estimated to be around 32.24 lakhs.

(c) The data for the growth rate of the food processing industries during the current year 2007-08 is not available. However, the average GDP growth rate of the food processing industries during the first four years of the Tenth Plan period (upto 2005-06) was @ 13.025% at current prices and @ 6.75% at 1999-2000 prices.

Upgradation of Cochin University

1521. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to upgrade the Cochin University of Science and Technology into an institute of national importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken in this regard; and

(d) the benefits that would accrue including the financial assistance, by upgrading the status of the University?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) Based on the recommendation of Prof. S.K. Joshi Committee and Prof. Anandakrishnan Committee, Government is considering upgradation of the Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) into an Institute of National Importance as part of a system of Indian Institutes of Engineering Science and Technology (IIST). A sum of Rs. 10.00 crores was released to CUSAT during the financial year of 2006-07.

Books on sex education

†1522. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government intend to effect some changes in the books on sex education prescribed in the schools throughout the country with the help of UNESCO/UNO;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the details thereof; and

(d) the objectives behind imposing sex education on the students despite strong opposition to it throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) There is no book on sex education prescribed in the schools throughout the country. However, Ministry

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.