

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *236
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST MARCH, 2025

FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR IN NORTH EASTERN STATES

***236. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:**

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

- (a) whether Government is planning to encourage entrepreneurs in food processing sector in the North Eastern States;
- (b) whether Government have organized any special trainings for entrepreneurs in food processing sector in Assam and other North Eastern States; and
- (c) if so, the manner in which Government is coordinating with different States, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 236 FOR ANSWER ON 21ST MARCH, 2025 REGARDING “FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR IN NORTH EASTERN STATES”

(a): For overall growth and development of food processing sector across the country including North Eastern Region (NER) States, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been incentivizing setting up/ upgradation of related infrastructure through its Central Sector Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) Scheme, Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) and Centrally sponsored PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme.

In order to encourage entrepreneurs in the food processing sector from NER states, the following preferential provisions have been made in component scheme guidelines of PMKSY-

- (i) Net Worth requirement reduced to amount equal to grant sought, in comparison to 1.5 times for proposals from general areas;
- (ii) Term Loan requirement reduced to 10% of eligible project cost, in comparison to 20% for proposals from general areas;
- (iii) Equity requirement reduced to 10% of eligible project cost, in comparison to 20% for proposals from general areas;
- (iv) Quantum of grant at enhanced level of 50% of eligible project cost, in comparison to 35% for proposals from general areas (Subject to the maximum ceiling under respective sub-schemes);
- (v) Requirement of minimum project cost reduced to Rupees One Crore, in comparison to rupees Three Crores in r/o Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities Scheme projects [for other schemes, no such criteria is fixed]

Also, Ministry has issued separate Expression of Interest on 27th July, 2023 for inviting proposals from interested individuals/entities of NER states under PMKSY. Ministry has approved 157 projects in NER States under component schemes of PMKSY.

Ministry also provides financial, technical and business support for setting up/ upgradation of micro food processing enterprises under PMFME scheme including NER States. The scheme is operational for a period of upto 2025-26 with an outlay of Rs.10,000 Crore. Ministry has approved 1149 Credit Linked Subsidy for Individual Enterprises and Seed Capital to 17,444 Self Help Group Members in NER States under PMFME Scheme.

PLISFPI is, inter alia, intended to support creation of global food manufacturing champions and support Indian brands of food products in international market including NER States. The Scheme is being implemented over a six-year period from 2021-22 to 2026-27 with an outlay of Rs. 10,900 crores. Ministry has approved 4 locations for incentives in NER States under PLISFPI.

(b) to (c): The Capacity Building component of the PMFME Scheme envisages to provide training for Entrepreneurship Development Skilling & Product Specific Skilling to meet the requirement of food processing industry across the country including North Eastern Region (NER) States. So far, 95,762 beneficiaries have been trained, out of which 20,879 beneficiaries are from NER States.

MoFPI under Capacity Building component of the PMFME Scheme also provides training to Master Trainers through its two autonomous Institutions namely, National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship & Management, Kundli, Haryana (NIFTEM-K) & National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship & Management, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu (NIFTEM-T) and other sector specific National Institutes. The number of Master Trainers trained in NER States are 131.

Under PMFME Scheme, all the States/ UTs have appointed State Nodal Agency, constituted State Level Approval committee & District Level Committee for implementation of the scheme. Further, under PMKSY Scheme, State Governments representatives are members of the Technical Committee.

NIFTEM-T is having a Liaison Office in Guwahati which plays a crucial role in reaching out to entrepreneurs in NER States by providing training, mentorship, and technical support.
