

**Processing capacity for fruits and vegetables**

†3389. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the processing capacity in the Food Processing Industries in the country has increased during the last four years;

(b) for how much percentage of the production, the processing capacity existed in March, 1998; and

(c) how much was this capacity at the end of year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The percentage of installed capacity of Fruits & Vegetables processing units licensed under Fruit Products Order (FPO), 1955 to total production of fruits & vegetables in the country for the year 1997-98 was under 2%.

(c) The installed capacity for units licensed under Fruit Products Order, 1955 as on 1st January, 2001 is 21 lakh tonnes.

**Food Processing Programmes in NEER**

3390. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the implementation status of on-going programmes for food processing in the NEER and the specific action plan, if any, taken up to be implemented in the Region, being a potential area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries provides financial assistance through its plan schemes in the form of grant-in-aid to Private Sector Industries, Non-Governmental Organizations, Cooperatives, Public/Joint/Assisted Sector Undertakings, Human Resource Development Institutions, Research & Development Institutions etc., for development of the Processed Food Sector. A higher quantum of assistance is provided for difficult areas which include North Eastern States including Sikkim. Against a requirement of spending at least 10% of its plan outlay in the North Eastern Region, the Ministry has spent on an average 19% of total outlay during 1998-99 to 2000-2001. A total of 53 projects have been assisted in the North Eastern Region during 1998-1999 to 2000-2001.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.