

[English]

### **New Sugar Licensing Policy**

428. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a new sugar licensing policy; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). The Central Government is in the process of formulating a new sugar licensing policy which would be announced shortly.

### **Expansion and Diversification of Food Processing Industry**

429. SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great scope for the expansion and diversification of processed food industry in the country;

(b) if so, the possibilities explored by Union Government in that regard so far;

(c) the success achieved thereon during the Seventh Plan; and

(d) the schemes drawn in that regard for Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Three Development Councils have been constituted under the Ministry to iden-

tify the problems and constraints faced by the different sectors of the food processing industries and to advise the Government about the steps to be taken for the overall development of the processed food industry. At the instance of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the State Governments have also set up Nodal Agencies in order to coordinate and initiate activities pertaining to the growth of food processing industry within the state. Detailed sectoral studies have also been conducted to assess the status of different sectors of this industry.

(c) As the Ministry of Food Processing Industries was created only towards the middle of the fourth year of the VIth Plan, the existing Plan schemes of the other Departments, from which subjects had been transferred, were continued. Under the existing scheme in the Fruit and Vegetable Processing sector, the Bihar Fruit and Vegetable Corporation has set up an integrated processing unit at Hajipur with Central equity and loan assistance. In the Grain Milling sector, the support to R&D institutions was taken up for the modernisation of rice mills. A scheme for modernisation of Huller through subsidies was also operated during the period in various States. A Trawler Development Fund scheme has also been in operation during the Seventh Plan period for encouraging acquisition of trawlers for deep sea fishing.

(d) In order to encourage the growth and development of the processed food industry, several development schemes have been prepared for 1990-91. In the F&V processing sector, these include schemes for strengthening the backward linkages between growers and processors, for strengthening quality control, for extension and education, for development of infrastructure facilities, etc. Schemes have also been proposed for processing of poultry and pork, modernisation of the grain milling industry for effective utilisation of its by-products etc.