

interest, are common to all food industries. These problems are accentuated in the case of food processing industries because of the seasonality of production and higher risk factors.

Since the growth of the Food Processing Sector depends upon several factors such as availability of raw material, the right type of technology and availability of funds etc., information on the specific impact of paucity of funds on the industry, is not available. The possible remedial measures for overcoming this problem include strengthening of the Appraisal Departments in financial institutions, setting up of more branches of the Banks in different parts of the country and fixing of different norms for repayment schedules in respect of food processing industries, etc.

Killing of Lawyer

5108. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any investigation has been made into the abduction and killing of lawyer and human rights activist Jalil Andrabi in Kashmir in March, 1996;

(b) if so, the findings of the investigation;

(c) whether the perpetrators of the crime have been arrested and brought to justice; and

(d) if so, whether the Government and Human Rights Organisations have also expressed their concern about the incidence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d) Mr. Jalil Andrabi, Advocate was way-laid near Peer Bagh (Srinagar) and abducted by unidentified gunmen on 08.03.1996 while he was travelling in his car alongwith his wife and daughter. Immediately after the incident, Mrs. Rifat Ara Andrabi, wife of Mr. Andrabi reported at Police Station, Saddar, Srinagar that they were stopped near Peer Bagh by some army personnel and that Andrabi was picket up from the car. On further probing by the Police personnel, Mrs. Andrabi has stated that some unidentified armed abductors had used a private taxi for whisking away her husband. A report was immediately entered in the Police Station on 08.03.1996 and efforts were made to locate Mr. Andrabi. Army mentioned in Mrs. Andrabi's report, were asked to intimate whether he was picked up by them and was in their custody. Army authorities categorically denied that they had arrested him or he was in their custody. In view of this and other statements of Mrs. Andrabi, FIR u/s 364/365 RPC (Kidnapping/

Abduction) was registered in the police station and the search was further intensified.

Meanwhile, a Habeas Corpus Petition was also filed in the J&K High Court on 09.03.1996 by the High Court Bar Association in this regard. Union of India through the Chief of Army Staff, State of J&K through Additional Chief Secretary (Home), Rashtriya Rifles and Director General of Police, J&K had been made respondents. The respondents filed affidavits denying that they had anything to do with the abduction. Rashtriya Rifles categorically denied the allegation saying that the area was outside the area of their operation. Neither any member of the Rashtriya Rifles was present at the spot at around that time nor did any member of them apprehend or receive him in custody.

Under orders of the High Court, a Special Investigating Team has been constituted under a Senior Superintendent of Police and the search for Andrabi was intensified. While the investigation was in progress, the dead body of Mr. Andrabi was recovered from the Jhelum river by local residents. Post mortem was conducted by a team of doctors constituted by the Principal, Medical College, Srinagar, as per directions of the High Court. The post-mortem report has been made available to the investigating team. The High Court has also directed that the Special Investigating Team should not take instructions from any authorities except the High Court and that it should not reach any final conclusion without first making a report to the Court. In view of this, the post-mortem report is not available for comments. The High Court, has been informed by the State Government that payment of relief would be made to the next of kin of the deceased as per the existing rules of the Government and that the Government does not intend to appoint any other Judicial Commission to probe the case since the investigation is already being monitored by a Division Bench of the High Court. The investigation by the Special Investigation Team is continuing and the matter is sub-judice in the State High Court.

Mars Planet

5109. SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scientist of NASA in USA have made a conclusion that life exists in Mars;

(b) if so, the perception of Indian scientists in this regard;

(c) whether the Indian Government propose to encourage such research in the country; and

(d) if so, steps taken/propose to be taken in this regard ?