

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2986
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2003
SETTING UP OF IRRADIATION PROJECT
LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy has decided to set up irradiation project for processing of agricultural produces in Rajasthan and other States;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the time by when the said project is likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATE AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE & MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY - (ADDITIONAL CHARGE) - (SHRI S. B. MOOKHERJEE)

(a), (b) & (c) The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), based on the technologies developed in the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has set up one high dose demonstration plant for irradiation of spices at Vashi, Navi Mumbai and another low dose demonstration plant for irradiation of onions at Lasalgaon, Nasik, in Maharashtra state based on Cobalt-60. Centre for Advanced Technology is working on an accelerator-based radiation processing facility at Indore, Madhya Pradesh for processing of agricultural products. The Department is actively involved in the propagation of this technology and is encouraging private entrepreneurs to establish facilities for irradiation of agricultural products in different parts of the country.