

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6421
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2005
PATENT OF PROCESSED FOOD
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

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

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for patenting Indian vegetarian food items/processed foods;
- (b) the number of food/processed food items patented by the Government, as on March 31, 2005;
- (c) whether any difficulties or counter claims have been experienced/made in patenting; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHA)

(a): As per the Patents Act, patenting of food items was not permitted prior to 01.01.2005. Only the process for the preparation of foods was patentable.

(b) to (d): So far, no food items have been granted patent. The number of patents granted in respect of process for manufacture of food during the period 01.04.1999 to 31.12.2004 is 130, comprising 43 by Government Organizations including Public Undertakings and 87 by private sector.