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Title: Need to set up Food Processing industries in rural areas to stop migration of villagers to urban areas.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): I would thank you, hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for calling me to raise this important issue.

Due to the hard labour of our farmers, horticulture production has exceeded the combined production of food grains and oilseeds, which is an estimated 265 million tones. It is an increase of 8.6 per cent from food grains and oilseeds. But due to non-availability of facilities for aggregation, storage, transportation, cold chain and low level of processing of agrarian produce, high level of losses to the tune of 18 per cent are reported. If we are able to give supply chain to our farmers, these losses may be decreased. The hon. Prime Minister has given a slogan "Make In India." If the Food Processing Ministry encourages large scale private investment in agro-processing industry, the food processing industry may develop which is the next growth engine of our economy. Our Food Processing Industry has a huge potential to generate employment.

Even after 68 years of Independence, 38 per cent households in the country have no jobs. According to 2011 Census, 10.1 per cent women are the head of the family but they have no resources for income generation. I would like to request the hon. Minister to give top priority to food processing industry so that our villagers may progress and the rush towards urban areas may be stopped.