

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN. There is no such priority system. Naturally they should be members of a particular and genuine registered society. That is the only criterion.

Development of Vertically integrated Food Processing Industry

412. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct an indepth study for the development of vertically integrated food processing industry based either on foreign or indigenous know-how to reduce the colossal waste of fruit, vegetables and other food articles owing to faulty harvesting, storing and transportation; and

(b) if so, the details of plans and proposals of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Various studies are conducted from time to time for development of various sectors of food processing industries including fruit and vegetable processing industries, meat processing, Industries, marine fisheries, packaging industry etc.

A number of schemes have been formulated for the Annual Plan 1990-91 for providing support to the growth and development of food processing industries in various sectors.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, processing units have not been expanded so far. My question was very

clear. There are processing unit of vegetables and fruits and their capacity of 3 lakh tonnes has been lying idle and the fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 3,000 crore etc. destroyed annually. Same is the position till now in respect of meat and fish. Since the consumer items are also produced in forests, nurseries and fields, is the Government considering developing processing units of all the products to meet the shortage of these items?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is right. Actually Food Processing Department is a new department and had not developed fully and as the hon. Member has said that fruits and vegetables worth Rs. 3000 crore are destroyed and he has asked whether our Ministry is able to coordinate the researches, findings and works being conducted all over the country about food processing. Food Processing Department is quite a large department but we still are lagging far behind in processing of fruits, vegetables, grains, fish and meat etc. as compared to other countries. The only object of setting up this Ministry is that this field would be more beneficial and would be able to develop new industries. At present, our Ministry helps the State Government by coordinating the findings received from the different agencies and people in the private sector, cooperative sector and different departments of the Ministry. We have formulated a schemes for 1991 and sent it to the Planning Commission. We have allocated Rs. 32 crore for the scheme. We have sent the scheme to the Planning Commission for being taken up during the Eighth Plan for the development of and removing the short comings in the processing of vegetables, fruits, fisheries etc. This scheme is at present under consideration. As the hon. Member has said, there is great scope of development in this field. I agree that there is great shortage of food-grains and vegetables in our country. We are formulating a new and an attractive scheme to sell our products abroad.

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, in the light of the clarification

given by the hon. Minister, first of all, I would like to know whether the present processing units are of horizontal structure and this structure is not likely to yield full benefit. Therefore, I would like to know whether Government proposes to adopt the vertical integration so that this structure may yield best results in future?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: I have already given a detailed reply.

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Sir, the question is very specific and on a very important subject—whether Government propose to conduct an indepth study for the development of vertically integrated food processing industry. If you kindly see, in the answer, it is stated that various studies have been conducted and various methods are being adopted. One is the horizontal type which the Planning Commission, long ago, found out that it was not giving the real benefit to the farmers and also was costly. Dr. B.C. Roy first thought about it and the first unit was the vertical type which was set up in Malda district for Malda Mangoes. Then it was taken to Darjeeling for Oranges and for Pineapple to Tripura. It is a question of Rs. 32 crores... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Panja, please put the question.

SHRI AJIT PANJA: Huge vegetables and fruits are being blocked in 24 Parganas of West Bengal like Cabbages and Cauliflowers are being wasted. If it is vertical—I request the Minister to kindly apply his mind—from the start of plantation up to fruit bearing and again coming down to the food processing, it gives benefit to the farmers. You are talking of exports. But unless you look at it, how can you produce quality fruits. Therefore, has the Minister and the Department made any study regarding vertical integrated food processing industry, if so, out of Rs. 32 crores, how much amount has been set apart for West Bengal? Already the Planning Commission has studied it in so far as East-

ern region including West Bengal is concerned. I would like to know whether the Minister knows about it and when he is going to implement it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I told earlier also that this Ministry was formed in 1988 and it has not been able to function upto its full capacity and capability so far. I have made every effort to make this Department work to its full capacity. I do agree that exports are not cut first priority. Right now we have the food-processing capacity to meet the indigenous demand only. The units that have been set up have a lot of potential for expansion. In reply to the hon. Member's question, I want to say that the opinions of all experts in the field are compiled and then only final decision is taken on the type of assistance to be given. The hon. Member raised a question pertaining to West Bengal. When this matter is referred to our Ministry, we will see what best can be done.

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA: It is already there Mr. Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP SINGH: Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what is the Government's stand regarding the food processing industry? What is the main purpose of food processing? It has been seen that sufficient attention is not being paid to this industry even though a lot is being said about it. The Government had made efforts to promote potato cold storages. The thinking behind this was that it would enable us to ensure the supply of potatoes throughout the year keeping the prices in control. But contrary to expectations, potato prices go on increasing. May I know the objective we are trying to achieve? Will we encourage the food-processing industry only boost our exports or to

ensure the availability of goods at cheaper rates in our own country.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Sir, the hon. Member means that fruits and vegetables become rotten and go waste. This is due to non-availability of transportation and cold storage facilities. A widespread network is not available for the distribution of these items. The Ministry has been set up to deal with these problems. If the hon. Member's constituency has any specific problem, my Ministry is prepared to look into it and even talk to the State Government if the need arises. I agree with him that exports are not our top priority. Our first priority is to meet the indigenous demand for milk, vegetables and other such items. Apart from this, we must make the best use of the items which are being produced in sufficient quantities. We have to increase the production of items which are presently being produced in small quantities. We are lagging behind other countries in the food processing industry. I know that the hon. Member's constituency is a potato-growing area and the potato growers are being subjected to a lot of exploitation. In the next Five Year Plan, it is proposed to make a special budget provision for this purpose. Special attention would be paid to the provision of transportation and cold storage facilities. Oranges which come from Nagpur perish in transit. There are many commodities which perish on a large-scale by the time they reach Delhi from other places. About 1/3rd of the total quantity rots away during transportation. So we have a lot to do in order to make progress in this sector.

Construction of Jamrani Dam Project

*413. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh has requested for taking up the construction work of Jamrani Dam Project;

(b) if so, whether the request has been accepted; and

(c) if so, the amount likely to be spent thereon during the current Five Year Plan?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (c). The Project was approved in May, 1975. The modified Project proposal at an estimated cost of Rs. 145 crores was also found acceptable by the Advisory Committee in May, 1989, subject to, among others, finalisation of rehabilitation and re-settlement aspects. Anticipated expenditure till the end of Seventh Plan is Rs. 15.60 crores. Eighth Plan proposals have not been finalised.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the month of May has a special significance in the hon. Minister's reply. The reply states that the project was approved in May 1975 and it was endorsed by the Advisory Committee in May, 1989. It has been stated in the reply that rehabilitation and re-settlement aspect have not been finalised. The reply does not clarify as to when the work will start. Will the construction work of the Jamrani Dam Project start by May 1990 and how much financial assistance will be given by the Ministry to the State Government?

[English]

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Sir, so far as the Central Assistance is concerned, let me clarify certain points. Many hon. Members are taking such interest regarding the Central assistance for the Project. I am very much thankful for the hon. Members for taking interest in the development of irrigation potential. Sir, this Government is also very much keen to give additional irrigation potential in the country. The Central Government's role is something different. This being a state subject, the State Government has to formulate and has to submit the proposal to the Central Government for going through the technical and economical viability as-