

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 972**  
ANSWERED ON- 10/02/2023

**BACKWARD LINKAGES TO INDIGENOUS CROPS**

972 **SHRI BINOY VISWAM:**  
**SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:**  
**DR. AMEE YAJNIK:**

Will the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken steps to support smart protein/ alternative protein manufacturing hubs with backward linkages to indigenous crops such as millets, pongamia, chickpeas, seaweed, peas and other lentils that would diversify the global inputs for innovative applications in food;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details about training for cultivation, harvesting and post harvest processing and quality control; and
- (d) the details regarding infrastructural support to be provided for post harvest management and market linkage?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

**(a) & (b):** In order to ensure overall development of Food Processing Industries in the country including millet based protein/ alternative protein produce & nutraceuticals, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) supports the setting up/ upgradation of such Industries through grants in its Central Sector Umbrella Scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY), and Centrally sponsored PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme. Apart from this Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI) is, inter alia, intended to support creation of global food manufacturing champions and support Indian brands of food products in international market.

**(c):** Under PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme, 42 State Level Technical Institutions (SLTIs) of 35 States/ UTs are approved for entrepreneurship development in post-harvest processing. A total of 22159 beneficiaries have been trained till date.

**(d):** To strengthen the infrastructural support available to the food processing sector, MoFPI extends Grant-in-Aid to any private organization/ entity or Government organization intending to set up/ upgrade Food Testing Laboratory (FTL) through its FTL Scheme under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana. Under this scheme, a total of 184 FTL projects have been approved. MoFPI also extends Grant-in-Aid to educational and research institutions including Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) recognized R&D units in private sector for related demand driven R&D projects through its R&D scheme under PMKSY.

ICAR under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare also supports entrepreneurs by providing incubation facilities for post-harvest management and market linkages through Agri-Business Incubation Units (ABIs) established in different Institutes.

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