

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 49
TO BE ANSWERED ON 7th FEBRUARY, 2025

ASSISTANCE TO FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR

49 SHRI VAIKO:

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

- (a) the details of schemes announced in the Budget of 2024-25, relating to food processing industry for achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047;
- (b) the number of multi-product food irradiation units set up in food processing sector in the last one year and the quantum of financial support given by Government; and
- (c) whether any assistance has been requested from the Ministry for setting up of Food Quality and Safety Testing Labs and the progress of setting up of such labs in various States, including Tamil Nadu, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI CHIRAG PASWAN)

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 49 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 BY SHRI VAIKO REGARDING “ASSISTANCE TO FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR”.

(a): During the presentation of the Annual Financial Statement for FY 2024-25 on July 23, 2024, the Finance Minister announced financial support for setting up of 50 multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector. Additionally, the Finance Minister announced that setting up of 100 food quality and safety testing labs with NABL accreditation will be facilitated. The details of schemes for (A) Food Safety & Quality Assurance Infrastructure- (FTL) and (B) Integrated Cold Chain & Value Addition Infrastructure – “setting-up of multi-product food irradiation units” are at **Annexure-I**.

(b): In the last year, one multi-product food irradiation unit i.e. M/s. Lions Foods Pvt. Ltd., Gir Somnath, Gujarat has been set up with total project cost of ₹22.45 Crore and approved Grants-in-aid / Subsidy of Rs. 6.47 Crore.

(c): The Food Safety & Quality Assurance Infrastructure- (FTL) scheme is demand driven and in accordance with the current guidelines, no State wise/ UT wise allocation is made. The proposals from prospective applicants are invited by floating an expression of interest for the setting up/ upgradation of food testing laboratories. The funds are provided as grants-in-aid/subsidy to approved projects across the country, including the state of Tamil Nadu. To date, 165 projects have been completed out of 205 approved projects under the FTL scheme. In Tamil Nadu, 19 projects have been completed out of 23 approved projects.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 49 FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2025 REGARDING “ASSISTANCE TO FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR”

(A) Scheme for Food Safety & Quality Assurance Infrastructure (FTL):

Objectives of the Scheme: To strengthen the food quality control infrastructure and make it accessible to the food processing sector and other stakeholders, ensuring compliance with domestic and international food safety standards. Additionally, the scheme aims to reduce the Turn-around Time (TAT) for the analysis of food samples.

Eligible Entities: Any private organization/entity, Corporate Entity, Proprietorship/ Partnership Entity/ Government organization intending to set up/ upgrade its existing Food Testing Laboratory.

Pattern of Assistance:

- **Government Organizations:** 100% of the Eligible Project Cost comprising Food Testing Equipment and Technical Civil Work for Government organizations.
- **Private Organizations:**
 - 50% of Eligible Project Cost for general areas/ general category applicants.
 - 70% of Eligible Project Cost for difficult areas and SC/ST applicants.

(B) Integrated Cold Chain & Value Addition Infrastructure – setting-up of multi-product food irradiation units: Setting up of multiproduct irradiation facilities/units is a Sub-component of Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure Scheme (Cold Chain Scheme)

Objective of the Scheme: To ensure reduction of loss and wastage of perishable agricultural produce like fruits and vegetables with irradiation treatment.

Irradiation is widely accepted as a proven and effective post-harvest treatment. Countries across the globe including India have been using industrial irradiators for the processing of food products for commercial purposes.

Irradiation facilities in cold chain scheme under PMKSY, are a standalone component and may include integrated infrastructures like cold storage, grading and sorting facilities, reefer vans for effective storage and transportation of the irradiated materials.

Eligible Entities: As per scheme guidelines, individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, Central/State PSUs, etc. are eligible for preferring applications for setting up integrated cold chain and value addition infrastructure projects.

Pattern of Assistance: Under the scheme, the Ministry provides grants-in-aid @ 35% of eligible project cost in General Areas and @50% of eligible project cost in Difficult Areas as well as for projects of SC/ST promoters, FPOs and SHGs subject to maximum Rs.10 crore.

[Note: Difficult Area for proposals under this Scheme means North-Eastern States (including Sikkim), State of Uttarakhand, State of Himachal Pradesh, Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, State Notified ITDP(Integrated Tribal development Projects) areas and Islands (Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep).]