

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3918
ANSWERED ON 04TH APRIL, 2025

**ALLOCATION AND UTILIZATION OF FUNDS FOR RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT IN FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR**

3918. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of funds allocated and utilised for the research and development in Food Processing Sector in the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the funds allocated for research and development in food processing sector have come down during the last five years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the status of implementation of research and development in this sector and targets set and achieved in this regard during last three years; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the research and development in this sectors.?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
(SHRI RAVNEET SINGH)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing a Research and Development scheme, which is a component of Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY). Under the scheme, the Ministry has approved 80 Research and Development projects from 2017-18 to till date with approved grant-in-aid of Rs. 28.75 Crore. Out of this Rs. 22.60 crore has been released.

The details of funds allocated and utilized for the research and development projects in Food Processing Sector during last five years are as under:

| S. No. | Financial Year | Fund allocation (BE) | Total Grant-in-Aid released under R&D scheme |
|--------|----------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | 2020-21 | 7.86 | 6.02 |
| 2 | 2021-22 | 7.60 | 2.78 |
| 3 | 2022-23 | 3.44 | 1.18 |
| 4 | 2023-24 | 4.96 | 0.52 |
| 5 | 2024-25 | 4.10 | 0.18 |

As per existing guidelines for the R&D Scheme, funds are released on reimbursement basis resulting in delay in receiving/ non-receiving of proposals for the release of funds. Thirteen (13) R&D proposals have been completed in the financial year 2024-25 and eight (08) new R&D proposals have been approved in the August, 2024. The requests received for reimbursement of funds were less than the approved costs of some R&D projects, thereby leading to less expenditure. In some cases, Principal Investigators (PIs) had informed that the 2nd/3rd instalment is not required because projects have been

completed with the funds released as the 1st/2nd instalment by the Ministry.

To improve the research and development in this sector, the scheme guidelines are amended from time to time. Some of the changes effected in the scheme guidelines for better outcome are:

- Preference is given to those R&D project proposals which are beneficial for small & medium enterprises and farmers and are intended towards commercialization of the said technology.
- Projects wherein Industry Partners have separate/ dedicated research centres, investing financial contributions of at least 10% of cost of equipment in the project.
- Projects relating to Millet based innovative products.
- Projects relating to development of innovative food packaging material from waste material released from food industry.
- Projects relating to Development of sustainable packaging to ensure minimal climate impact.
