

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE  
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 694.  
TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 05<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2025.**

**STRENGTHENING OF INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM**

**694. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has signed any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen country's startup and innovation ecosystem, if so, details thereof;
- (b) the details of new initiatives launched during the food & beverages Sector stakeholders meeting; and
- (c) the significant steps taken to strengthen country's agricultural and processed food exports with a vision to achieve \$50 billion in agri-food exports for its Scheduled Products by 2030?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)**

- (a): In order to promote partnerships and collaborations between the industry and startups and encourage innovation-led growth in sectors like manufacturing, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is signing Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various stakeholders including private companies for the specific purpose, inter alia, of mentoring, providing access to infrastructure, sharing resources and knowledge, assisting in market linkages and connecting to funding networks.
- (b) & (c): The food & beverages sector stakeholders' meeting was recently convened by the Department of Commerce, to deliberate on strengthening India's agri-food ecosystem and discuss emerging opportunities in the sector. On the sidelines of the meeting, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched its new initiative Bharat's Hub for Agritech, Resilience, Advancement and Incubation for Export Enablement (BHARATI) to support startups engaged in agri-food and agri-tech, with a focus towards enhancing agri exports. It is structured to complement and enhance industry and government-led incubation programmes in the agriculture, food and food processing sectors, to work on resolution of export challenges related to new and innovative product development, value addition, quality assurance, perishability, wastage and logistics, to deliver scalable, cost-effective solutions to enhance India's global competitiveness.

The Government is undertaking various other measures to strengthen the country's agricultural and processed food exports.

APEDA is taking steps such as strengthening the organic export ecosystem, forming an inter-ministerial committee to enhance agri exports, promoting research & development (R&D) and new technologies, promoting innovations in value added products, enhanced branding and promotion, training and capacity building, and commissioning of studies and reports. The details are placed as **Annexure-I**.

Further, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) implements the Central Sector Umbrella Scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), and Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries for overall development of the food processing sector. The details are placed as **Annexure-II**.

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing the "Innovation and Agri-Entrepreneurship Development" programme under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to promote agri-innovation by supporting startups in various field of agriculture and allied sectors with incubation, training, and financial assistance. Through a network of Knowledge Partners and Agribusiness Incubators, the programme provides pre-seed and seed funding, helping startups develop, launch, and scale their solutions.

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 694 FOR ANSWER ON 05.12.2025.**

**As per inputs by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), the following initiatives are being undertaken:**

- (a): **Strengthening Organic export eco-system:** India's organic exports come under the purview of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) which has been revised to 8th edition, with the revised regulation, implemented with effect from July, 2025. The revisions bring in more credibility and transparency in the system, along with introduction of farmer friendly features.
- (b): **IMC formed to enhance Agri exports (DOC, MoFPI, MoA&FW):** An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been formed to enhance agricultural exports, involving the Department of Commerce (DOC), the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW).
- (c): **R&D and New Technology:** Collaboration with ICAR research institutions for developing sea protocols for commodities like Banana, Mangoes, Pomegranates, Pineapples, Ginger, Oranges to address the challenge of long transit times by sea, is underway, which will significantly boost the prospects for India's Fresh Fruit exports.
- (d): **Innovations in Value Added products:** For enhancing export realization R&D projects with Indian Institute of Millet Research (IIMR) & the International Rice research institute (IRRI) for development of innovative value-added products
- (e): **Enhanced branding and promotion:** To strengthen the global presence of Indian agricultural products, focused efforts are being made to enhance branding and promotion. Collaboration of APEDA with the India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF) has been undertaken for strategic branding of key products such as rice, organic produce, fresh fruits and vegetables, millets etc.
- (f): **Enhanced training & Capacity Building:** Training and capacity building of stakeholders in the Agri export value chain has been scaled up across the country, on topics related to importing country requirements, export procedures, quality, organic regulatory requirements
- (g): **Commissioning of Studies and Reports:** To support strategic planning, multiple studies and reports have been commissioned. These include studies on animal product exports, organic export strategy, Goa Organic Export Hub, value-chain and export strategies for 15 products, and an infrastructure gap analysis for nine major perishable crops across 15 horticultural states.

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## ANNEXURE-II

### **ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (b) & (c) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 694 FOR ANSWER ON 05.12.2025.**

**As per inputs by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) the following initiatives are being undertaken:**

MoFPI implements Central Sector Umbrella Scheme – Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) since 2016-17 to create post-harvest infrastructure and processing facilities to boost the overall development of the food processing sector including reduction in post-harvest losses, enhancing value addition etc. The component schemes under PMKSY are

- i. Mega Food Parks (the component has been discontinued with effect from 01.04.2021 with provision for committed liabilities only)
- ii. Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
- iii. Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters
- iv. Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages (the component has been discontinued from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021)
- v. Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities; and
- vi. Operation Greens

MoFPI provides credit linked financial assistance (capital subsidy) in the form of grants-in-aid to entrepreneurs for setting up of food processing/preservation infrastructure which, inter alia, includes cold storages to minimize post-harvest losses.

Additionally, MoFPI implements schemes viz. Prime Minister Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), and Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industries which aim for overall development of food processing sector, including creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet, providing better returns to farmers, creation of employment opportunities, increasing the processing level and enhancing the export of the processed foods.

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