

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 1714
ANSWERED ON 01ST AUGUST, 2024

AGRO INDUSTRIAL CORRIDORS IN TAMIL NADU

1714. THIRU DAYANIDHI MARAN:

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

- (a) the specific financial support proposed by the Union Government provide for the agro-industrial corridor in the Cauvery delta districts and whether there are any additional funds or subsidies available for the development of food parks in Theni, Manapparai, and Tindivanam, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the manner in which the Union Government would assist in developing the necessary infrastructure for these agro-industrial projects and the role being played by Union agencies in ensuring the timely support for these projects;
- (c) the initiatives being planned to incorporate advanced technologies in the food processing units and the manner in which the Government would support research and development to enhance food processing techniques and productivity;
- (d) the measures proposed to be taken to help MSMEs and small-scale producers to access national and international markets; and
- (e) whether there are any plans or policies being implemented by the Ministry in collaboration with educational institutions to provide specialized courses in food processing and related fields and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MOFPI) has been implementing Mega Food Park Scheme (MFPS), a component scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY), to create modern infrastructure for the food processing sector along the value chain from farm to market. The Ministry does not set up Mega Food Parks on its own and rather the scheme is demand driven wherein proposals are invited through Expression of Interest from eligible entities as per scheme guidelines. Under the Mega Food Park scheme, MOFPI has sanctioned one project to Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board (TNSAMB) for setting up of Mega Food Park at Tirunelveli District of Tamil Nadu. Details of the project are at **Annexure I**. Further, a proposal from M/s State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu with proposed location at Upparapatti, Theni District had been received during EOI where last date was 10.03.2021, but the same could not be sanctioned due to lower marks scored as per evaluation criteria of scheme guidelines. There is no proposal pending in the Ministry from Theni, Manapparai and Tindivanam districts of Tamil Nadu for setting up of Mega Food Park project. The scheme has been discontinued by the Government with effect from 01.04.2021 with provision for committed liabilities for ongoing projects only. Since, the scheme is discontinued, hence, setting up of new Mega Food Park cannot be supported anywhere in the country.

(b) The Mega Food park scheme is discontinued w.e.f. 01/04/2021. However, Ministry under its ongoing Scheme for Creation of Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters (APC Scheme)

which is also a part of umbrella scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, aims at development of common infrastructure such as cold storage, ripening chamber, silos, IQF, warehouse, internal roads, boundary wall, ETP/ STP, water supply, etc. to encourage entrepreneurs to set up food processing units based on cluster approach. For setting up APC project, at least 10 acres of land (5 acres in urban areas) for the project is required to be arranged by the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) either by purchase or on lease of at least 50 years. Minimum 5 food processing units with aggregate investment of minimum Rs. 25 crore are required to be set up in the approved APC.

Scheme envisages financial assistance @35% of eligible project cost in general areas and @50% of eligible project cost in difficult areas, SC/ST, FPOs and SHGs subject to maximum of Rs.10.00 Crores per project. The scheme is demand driven and applications under the scheme are invited online from potential investors / entrepreneurs against Expression of Interest (EoI) issued by the Ministry from time to time depending on the availability of funds.

As on 30.06.2024, Ministry has approved 76 projects with total project cost of Rs. 2460 Crore involving grants-in-aid of Rs. 658.83 Crore under APC scheme. Out of this 12 projects have been approved in the state of Tamil Nadu, their details are at **Annexure II**.

(c) The Ministry is currently implementing Research and Development Scheme which is a part of Human Resource & Institutions Scheme under the umbrella scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY). The Objective of the scheme is that end product/outcome/findings of R&D work should benefit food processing industry in terms of product and process development, efficient technologies, improved packaging, value addition etc. with commercial value along with standardization of various factors viz. additives, colouring agents, preservatives, pesticide residues, chemical contaminants, microbiological contaminants and naturally occurring toxic substances within permissible limits.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is provided to various Universities, IITs, Central/ State Government Institutions, Government funded organizations to promote and undertake demand driven R&D work in food processing sector for product & process development, design and development of equipment, improved storage, shelf-life, packaging etc.

R&D projects of Government organizations/ Institutions are eligible for 100% grant-in-aid for the cost of equipment, consumables and expenditure related to Research Fellows, etc. whereas Private organizations/universities/institutions/R&D laboratories and CSIR recognized R&D units in private sector are eligible to the tune of 50% of equipment cost in general areas and 70% in difficult areas.

(d) Ministry is already providing support to Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)/ Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ Cooperatives or SPV of micro food processing enterprises for developing a common packaging & branding with provision for quality control, standardization, and adhering to food safety parameters for consumer retail sale under Branding and Marketing component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME).

Further, the Union Cabinet in its meeting on 31.03.2021 approved the Central Sector Scheme- "Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)" to support creation of global food manufacturing champions commensurate with India's natural resource endowment and support Indian brands of food products in the international markets. The Scheme is being implemented over a six-year period from 2021-22 to 2026-27. The Scheme Objectives are to support food manufacturing entities with stipulated minimum Sales and willing to make minimum stipulated investment for expansion of processing capacity and Branding abroad to incentivize emergence of strong Indian brands.

A component of the Scheme relates to incentivizing production of Innovative/ Organic products of SMEs in four major food products segments, viz. Ready to Cook/ Ready to Eat (RTC/ RTE)

foods including Millets based products, Processed Fruits & Vegetables, Marine Products and Mozzarella Cheese, including Free Range - Eggs, Poultry Meat, Egg Products.

Another component of the Scheme relates to providing support to companies for branding and marketing abroad to incentivize emergence of strong Indian brands for in-store Branding, shelf space renting and marketing. The Ministry also took the initiative to encourage the use of Millets in RTC/RTE products and incentive them under the PLI Scheme (PLISMBP) to increase usage of millets in food products and promote value addition and sales.

(e) MoFPI has already established two Institutes of National Importance i.e. National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) located each at Sonipat (Haryana) and Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu). These Institutes have premier education and research capabilities in food technology and provides services to different segments of the food processing sector, spanning innovation, consultancy, incubation, quality testing, outreach and awareness with excellent national and international networking. NIFTEMs not only provide specialized courses in food processing and related fields but also provide training to the microenterprises and entrepreneurs in Food domain and offers technical assistance for the StartUps.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1714 FOR REPLY ON 01.08.2024 REGARDING AGRO INDUSTRIAL CORRIDORS IN TAMIL NADU.

Details of Mega Food Park Projects of Tamil Nadu

SPV/ IA Name	District	Date of Final Approval	Project Cost (INR in Cr)	Amount of grant approved (INR in Cr)	Amount of grant released (INR in Cr)	Status
Tamil Nadu State Agricultural Marketing Board	Tirunelveli	23.06.2021	77.024	23.64	12.22	Ongoing

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1714 FOR REPLY ON 01.08.2024 REGARDING AGRO INDUSTRIAL CORRIDORS IN TAMIL NADU.

Details of APC projects of Tamil Nadu

S. No.	Name of the Project Execution Agency (PEA)	District	Date of approval	Project cost (In Cr.)	Grant Approved (in Cr.)	Total Grant released (in Cr.)	Status
1.	M/s JFK International	Coimbatore	01.08.2019	16.71	4.1921	2.8566	Core processing & Basic enabling infrastructure completed
2.	M/s P Duraisamy Maharaja Rice Mills Pvt Ltd	Tirupur	03.10.2019	26.83	8.7682	6.2284	Ongoing
3.	M/s Tiruvannamalai Market Committee	Tiruvannamalai	29.04.2020	25.506	5.7487	1.81084	Ongoing
4.	M/s Salem Market Committee	Salem	29.04.2020	25.252	5.9753	1.88222	Ongoing
5.	M/s Theni Market Committee	Theni	29.04.2020	26.308	5.9955	1.88858	Ongoing
6.	M/s Dharmapuri Market Committee	Krishnagiri	29.04.2020	26.826	5.8937	1.85651	Ongoing
7.	M/s Madurai Market Committee	Madurai	29.04.2020	32.066	5.7912	1.82423	Ongoing
8.	M/s Dindigul Market Committee	Dindigul	29.04.2020	29.018	6.7357	2.12174	Ongoing
9.	M/s Cuddalore Market Committee	Cuddalore	29.04.2020	25.002	5.9793	1.88348	Ongoing
10.	M/s Delta Foods	Pudukkottai	08.06.2020	24.3125	7.472	5.25282	Core processing & Basic enabling infrastructure completed
11.	M/s Vamsi RS Industrial Zone	Erode	17.11.2021	33.167	9.1351	0	Ongoing
12.	M/s Integrated Service Point Pvt. Ltd.	Thiruvallur	28.02.2024	42.635	10.00	0	Ongoing
			Total	333.63	81.68	27.60	

