

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2462
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH MARCH, 2025

RELAUNCHING OF MEGA FOOD PARK SCHEME

2462. SHRI DHARAMBIR SINGH:

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

- (a) the reasons for the Government's decision to discontinue the Mega Food Park Scheme from April 1, 2021;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the impact of this decision on the food processing industry and farmers, particularly in regions like Bhiwani-Mahendergarh and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to introduce a new scheme or policy to support large-scale food processing infrastructure in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of any alternative initiatives under which food parks or similar projects may be established/implemented in the future;
- (e) whether the Government will reconsider for launching a revised version of the Mega Food Park Scheme to boost food processing and employment opportunities, if no new scheme is planned; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (f): The Mega Food Park scheme was launched in 2008 to boost food processing in the country with an aim to establish world-class infrastructure and common user facilities adopting cluster approach based on hub and spoke model. Despite the Ministry's efforts to streamline the scheme through appropriate amendments in the guidelines from time to time to remove the bottlenecks and periodic review meetings with the stakeholders, the pace of implementation of the scheme was slow.

Assessment / impact evaluation study of the scheme was carried out regularly through third party in the years 2012, 2014 & 2015 and the last assessment was done in 2020-21. The Impact evaluation report had recommended to critically review and relaunch the scheme with significant modification or to design a new scheme (in consultation with industry and other stakeholders) that complements the existing Mega Food Park projects and accelerates the promotion of food processing sector in the country.

The scheme had a requirement of at least 50 acres of land, which often was a deterrent in hilly and difficult areas. After taking into account the recommendations of many State Governments & Working Group constituted under 12th FC, a new scheme "Creation of Infrastructure for Agro Processing Clusters" was launched under PMKSY to develop common infrastructure in relatively smaller geographical area of 10 acres. Since the intent behind MFP scheme was already supplanted under APC scheme, hence it was decided to be discontinue the MFP scheme w.e.f. 01.04.2021 with provision for committed liabilities.

No specific impact assessment of discontinuation of the Mega Food Park scheme was done for Bhiwani-Mahendergarh region.
