



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

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Shri Hukm Deo Narayan Yadav, M.P. and Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture (2014-15), presented the Sixteenth Report on 'Mega Food Parks' of Ministry of Food Processing Industries to Lok Sabha today, the 11 August, 2015.

Some of the recommendations of the Committee are:

<p>Utmost thrust to be provided to Food Processing Industry in order to minimize agricultural wastages and to ensure better returns to farmers for their crops – recommended</p>	<p>The Committee have been informed that level of food processing in India is only 6% (7% of Fruits and Vegetables, 26% of Marine products, 6% for Poultry and 20% for Buffalo Meat). Huge amount of wastage in agriculture and allied sectors in India not only reduces availability of food to ever increasing population, but also reduces farmers' income. The Committee have, therefore, strongly recommended that Food Processing industry should be given the utmost thrust so that not only the wastage is minimized, but also farmers are ensured better returns of their crops.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. – 1)</p>
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<p>Evolving a mechanism to ensure passing of incentives of Mega Food Parks scheme to farmers and for payment of prescribed prices for farmer's produce – suggested</p>	<p>The broader idea behind this scheme is, to bring farmers, processors and retailers together and link agriculture production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income. However, noticing the lack of incentives for farmers under mega Food Park Scheme , the Committee have recommended the department to evolve a mechanism to ensure that the produce of the farmers are taken by the processing industries at the prescribed prices and the incentives of the scheme should also be passed on to them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. – 3)</p>
<p>Establishment of food processing industries based on local raw material and traditional knowledge of farmers- stressed</p>	<p>It has been observed by the Committee that focus in this Scheme has so far been on establishment of modern infrastructure facilities only and no steps have been taken to encourage farmers or entrepreneurs to establish food processing industry based upon utilization of local agricultural produce and traditional knowledge about food. The Committee have, therefore recommended the Ministry to establish food processing infrastructure based on local raw materials and traditional knowledge of farmers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. –5)</p>
<p>Slow Pace of Implementation of Mega Food Parks Scheme- deplored</p>	<p>Observing slow pace of implementation of Mega Food Park scheme, the Committee have desired the Ministry to take proactive steps in consultation with State Governments to reduce time lag caused by problems such as statutory clearance , land acquisition etc. The Committee have also recommended the Ministry to convince State Governments to establish single window clearance for Mega Food Park scheme so as to enable statutory clearance by the Departments/ Agencies concerned and to speed up the process of decision taking at the ministry level to expedite clearance for submitted proposals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. – 7)</p>
<p>Encouragement to entrepreneurs of Agriculturally important States for establishment of Mega Food Parks- suggested</p>	<p>Showing dismay over absence of a single Mega Food Park in many States such as Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and less number of approved projects in many agriculturally important States such as Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Haryana, Punjab etc. as compared to their potential, the Committee have recommended the Ministry to focus on these</p>

	<p>States and take steps to encourage entrepreneurs to apply for establishment of Mega Food Parks. The Committee have also recommended the Ministry to make provision for providing free consultancy services to local entrepreneurs for preparation of detailed project reports.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Recommendation Para No. – 8)</p>
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