

'UP leads with 65K food processing units, employing over 2.55L people'

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LUCKNOW: Deputy chief minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Friday said that the government was committed to expanding food processing industries to ensure better income for farmers and generate employment.

Chairing a meeting of the horticulture and food processing department, Maurya directed officials to actively promote the state's new food processing

policy, which offered grants and incentives for setting up and upgrading units.

He stressed that self-help groups (SHGs), especially women entrepreneurs, should be involved in these initiatives. A state-level call centre will also be established to assist stakeholders.

Later, talking to media persons, Maurya said that UP led the country with 65,000 food processing units, employing over 2.55 lakh people. Under the PM Micro Food Industry Upgra-

dation Scheme, 15,000 units have received grants, creating 1.5 lakh direct and indirect jobs.

Additionally, Rs 5,000 crore was invested under the 2017 policy, while the 2023 policy has already attracted over Rs 4,000 crore.

"So far in FY 2024-25, Rs 85 crore in grants has been disbursed to 70 new units, with entrepreneurs eligible for up to Rs 10 crore in assistance. The state ranks third in PM-FME scheme performance and led in

project approvals with a 98% strike rate last month. Each district will soon have designated resource persons to support SHGs under the scheme," he said.

Maurya said that officials had been instructed to publicise schemes at block and village levels through wall writings, hoardings, and social media.

He also announced an upcoming meeting with chief development officers and bankers to streamline policy implementation.



The state's new food processing policy offers grants and incentives for setting up and upgrading units.

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