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Radiation Processing Gaining Significance

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Madurai: Private players in India are aggressively exploring the possibilities of radiation processing technology. At present, four radiation processing plants are under construction in the private sector, said A K Kohli, Chief Executive of Board of Radiation Isotope Technology (BRIT).

Inaugurating a national seminar and awareness pro-

gramme on applications of radioisotopes and radiation technology in industry and health care, he said already

IT IS THE CONTROLLED APPLICATION OF SHORT WAVE LENGTH RADIATIONS

ten processing plants are in operation in the private sector. Eight more are under different stages of planning.

Radiation processing is the controlled application of short wave length radiations. The technology helps to increase the shelf life of food products, sterilise medical equipment and cross linking of rubbers and polymers.

“Seven years ago there were only three radiation processing units in India. All the three were run by the Department of Atomic Energy. The one in Vashi was called spices plant, as they

used to irradiate only spices. Now Ayurvedic medicines are also being irradiated.”

Quarantine treatment of mangoes by radiation process enabled India to resume export of mangoes to the US after a long gap. “For the past three years we are exporting mangoes to the US,” he added. The irradiation of cereals like rice, wheat is yet to pick up. Radiation processed pet feed now brings substantial export earnings, he added.