

[3rd August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

of Small Industries of India (FASII) vide their representation dated the 10th July, 2000 emphasised the need for continuation of the present Reservation Policy for the small scale industries (SSI) in the country. In addition, it also outlined several policy measures to strengthen this sector. Some of the important suggestions in this context are—the introduction of the Credit Guarantee Scheme for loans given to SSI units, the strengthening of the State Financial Corporations, the enhancement of the excise exemption limit to Rs. 1 crore, the creation of Technology Modernisation Fund for the SSI sector, the enactment of a separate Act for the growth and development of SSI sector and extending of greater marketing support to the SSI sector by the Government.

A new policy package is under the consideration of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Revamping of FCI

***172. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:**

SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to massively revamp operations of Food Corporation of India in order to make it more efficient; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) A review of the operations of the Food Corporation of India is undertaken by the Board of Directors/Government of India from time to time. This includes review of procurement operations, economic cost and administrative structure, storage and transit losses, with a view to reducing the subsidy burden on the Government and rationalisation of price structure of food grains for the consumers.

Implementation of programmes in KBK Districts in Orissa

***173. SHRI ANANTA SETHI:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, recently, made a review on the implementation of various programmes in the KBK districts in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons why the programmes for the development of these districts are not being implemented effectively; and

(c) the new strategies proposed to be adopted for economic development of these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCE OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)^(a) to (c) Planning and development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. However, to deal with the basic problems of the undivided districts of Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK) in Orissa a Long Term Action Plan was launched in 1995 for the development of these districts. Thereafter, to ensure better focus on high priority schemes which would deal with the basic problems of these districts, the Government of Orissa was asked to prepare a revised plan. The Revised Long Term Action Plan (1998-99 to 2006-07) consists of Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors, namely agriculture, horticulture, watershed development, afforestation, irrigation, health, drinking water, emergency feeding, welfare of SCs/STs and rural connectivity.

In addition to the normal flow of funds under Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, various steps have been taken to provide some additional funding to these districts. In Annual Plan 1998-99 an additionality of Rs. 37 crore was provided with break up as follows: Rs. 17 crore for primary residential school for girls, Rs. 10 crore for afforestation, Rs. 3.50 crore for watershed development and Rs. 6.50 crore for interest burden on loans for irrigation schemes. Further, a sum of Rs. 9 crore was provided from Additional Central Assistance (ACA) available under Basic Minimum Services (BMS) including Rs. 7 crore for Emergency Feeding Programme and Rs. 2 crore for Mobile Health Units.

In Annual Plan 1999-2000, an additionality of Rs. 37 crore was allocated including Rs. 20 crore for afforestation and Rs. 17 crore for primary residential school for girls. Under BMS, ACA of Rs. 20.60 crore was provided which

[3rd August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

included Rs. 10 crore for Rural Water Supply, Rs. 8.60 crore for Emergency Feeding and Rs. 2.00 crore for Mobile Health Units.

The review of schemes in the KBK districts is a continuous process and is carried out along with the review of existing policies so that the region can be pulled out of the vortex of poverty and put on the path of economic development.

Recurring droughts and weak administration resulting in slow implementation of schemes, besides certain policies of the State Government are among the reasons for the continued affliction of these areas with abject poverty. Efforts are being made to mitigate the endemic poverty of this region through a four-pronged approach: (i) Drought—proofing through watershed development, afforestation and extension of irrigation facilities; (ii) Emergency feeding and provision of health facilities through mobile health units; (iii) A more responsive administration, and (iv) A change in some of the policies of the State Government related to non-timber forest produce (NTFP), land acquisition, restoration of alienated land and autonomy to village panchayats in financial matters.

Centrally sponsored schemes for agricultural production

*174. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored schemes formulated and implemented in the State of Assam during the year 2000-2001 for increasing the agricultural production; and

(b) the details of target set for the said purpose during this period?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The list of Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented in Assam to increase the production and productivity of crops during the year 2000-2001 is given in the Statement (*See below*). No new Centrally sponsored scheme has been added to the list during the year 2000-2001.

(b) The details of targets set under various production oriented programmes are given below:—