

Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University have developed a superior variety of gram; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to test it and release it to the public?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The scientists of Chowdhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University have developed two varieties of gram (chana) namely, HC 1 and HC 3 in the last few years. The HC-3 variety of gram is bold seeded, tolerant to wilt, blight and root rot diseases. It was released in 1999 for cultivation in the State of Haryana. Another variety HC 1 is early maturing, tolerant to wilt and root rot diseases, it is suitable for late sowing and rainfed conditions. It was released in 1990 for cultivation in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The University has also developed recently a new variety, namely, H-96-99 which is being tested in the Initial Varietal Trial of the All India Coordinated Research Project on gram.

Dereservation of products from SSI Units

* 171. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Federations of Associations of Small Industries of India have expressed concern over Government's announcement of DERESERVATION of products in the name of empowering the small sector;

(b) if so, the details of representations received by Government and future reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have been trying to wind up SSIs in the country; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Federation of Associations

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RAJYA SABHA

of Small Industries of India (FASH) 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;