

Corporation of U.P. (PICUP), a UP State Government Undertaking. The rehabilitation scheme for UPDPL, sanctioned by the BIFR on 22.8.95, was challenged before the AAIFR by its bankers. AAIFR set aside the sanctioned scheme, which is now under review with the BIFR.

(xii) *Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd. (ODCL)*

ODCL is a joint sector undertaking promoted by IDPL in collaboration with Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Orissa Ltd. (IPICOL), an Orissa State Government undertaking. The rehabilitation scheme sanctioned on 18.8.94 was declared as failed by the BIFR in March 1997. As the Operating Agency, IDBI has been asked by the BIFR to prepare a revised scheme.

(xiii) *Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (MAPL)*

MAPL is a joint sector undertaking promoted by Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd. in collaboration with State Industrial Investment Corporation of Maharashtra (SIICOM), a Maharashtra State Government undertaking. The rehabilitation scheme for MAPL, which was declared a sick company on 14.1.1997, is yet to be finalized by the BIFR.

National Research Centre for Orchids by ICAR

*198. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established a National Research Centre for the research on Orchids in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made so far to popularise the cultivation of Orchids?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A National Research Centre for Orchids was sanctioned during VIII five year plan with a total budget of Rs. 120.00 lakh with an objective to conduct mission mode research on all aspects of Orchids. It has started functioning from October, 1996 at Pakyong, 35 km. from Gangtok, Sikkim. A total number of 30 posts including 6 scientific, 6 technical, 8 administrative and 10 supporting have been sanctioned. The research on germplasm collection and its evaluation has been initiated. The budget estimate for the current year (1997-98) is Rs. 80 lakhs.

(c) Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bangalore is providing regular training to the farmers, students and orchid entrepreneurs. The Orchid Society of India established in 1984 is popularising the orchids through organising periodical seminars/meetings. Quality planting material production in orchids is being undertaken by organisations

like Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Trivandrum, IHR, Bangalore, certain traditional Universities and commercial nurseries.

New Genetic Technology

*199. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the findings of the Tata Energy Research Institute that the application of new genetic technology will gradually eliminate the need to use pesticides;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt and implement this technology in the country ;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The Government is aware about the work being done by the scientists of Tata Energy Research Institute with respect to application of new genetic technology in pest management to reduce the use of pesticides.

(b) Their work involves transfer of lectin genes from certain plants into mustard and potato to impart resistance to aphids which are serious pests of these crops. These genetically transformed plants are still at the laboratory stage and have to be tested for their performance in the field.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Intensive efforts are being made in India to implement this technology and adopt it to Indian crops. Scientists at Bose Institute, Calcutta have developed rice carrying a Bt gene for protection against stem borers. National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology at IARI, New Delhi has developed vegetable crops like brinjal, tomato and cauliflower containing Bt genes. Central Potato Research Institute at Shimla has engineered Potato with Bt gene for resistance against tuber moth. Researchers at National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow are actively involved in the development of boll-worm resistant cotton. Many other institutes and universities have recently started such programmes in different crops.

ICAR actively encourages and supports research programmes aimed at the development of insect-resistant crops by using biotechnology tools. Institutes of rice, cotton, sorghum, potato etc. have dynamic ongoing programmes to achieve these objectives. ICAR has established a National Research Centre on Plant Biotechnology at IARI to do research, training and teaching of modern techniques of genetic engineering.

(e) Question does not arise.