

(d) Farmers would continue to be encouraged to grow mulberry by providing them with assistance in the form of free supply of mulberry cutting in new areas and quality disease free silk work seeds at reasonable rates. Besides, technical guidance and training will continue to be provided to farmers by the Central Silk Board.

Closure of Plastic Units

*809. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :

SHRI R.S. MANE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of adverse reaction on plastic units all over the country due to increase in customs and excise duties in the budget ;

(b) whether a large number of units are on the verge of closure as a result of increase in duties ; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to help the units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Government has received representations from various plastic manufacturers Associations, regarding problems arising consequent to the 1986 budget proposals in respect of customs and excise duties. It would, however, not be correct to say that a large number of units are facing closure due to increase in customs and excise duties. In fact in respect of certain items the duties have been reduced. In respect of Low Density Polyethylene and High Density Polyethylene the excise duty has been reduced to 30% from the earlier levels of 31.5% and 36.75%, respectively. The customs duties in respect of certain engineering plastics have also been reduced.

2. Prior to the 1986 budget the small scale exemption was only available in

respect of plastic raw materials falling under sub-item (1) of Item 15A of the earlier Excise Tariff. In the 1986 Budget all the plastic items have been brought under the general scheme of small scale exemptions with a few exceptions and have also been covered under the MOD-VAT scheme for the purposes of availing input duty relief.

3. In certain areas where representations have been received Government has taken necessary steps to help the plastic units. The general small scale exemption scheme announced in the 1986 budget has been further liberalised. Small scale units with a turn over not exceeding Rs. 1.5 crores in the previous financial year are eligible for complete excise exemption upto a clearance limit of Rs 15 lakhs in respect of items falling under a single tariff heading. In the case of small scale units producing more than one item falling under more than one tariff heading the complete excise exemption limit has been raised to Rs. 30 lakhs subject to the excise exemption limit in respect of a single tariff heading not exceeding Rs. 15 lakhs. Items like H.D.P.E. Woven Sacks, plastic canes and waste and scrap of plastics made from duty paid plastics materials have been completely exempted from excise duty.

Export of Rice

*814. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the varieties of rice which are being exported and the export price of each variety ;

(b) the agency through which export of rice is being made and the quantity of rice of each such variety exported during 1984-85 and 1985-86 indicating the names of the countries to which rice was exported ;

(c) whether a particular variety IR-8 was exported to some countries at less