

Winding up of Rehabilitation Industries Corporation, Calcutta

*169. SHRI K.B. CHETTRI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to wind up the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation, Calcutta; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY & REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) Government are considering steps for making the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation viable and are awaiting the proposals of the Corporation in this regard

(b) Does not arise.

Benefit to Farmers from Small Farmer Development Agency

*171. SHRI DHARAM VIR VASISHT): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited State-wise and the nature of benefit received under the Small Farmers Development Agency (SFDA) during the Fourth Plan period; and

(b) the position of subsidiary occupation programmes in the same context?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). A statement indicating the number of beneficiaries covered state-wise, during the Fourth Plan under the Small Farmers

Development Agency (SFDA) and Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Agency (MFAL) programme is enclosed. The identified participants were extended benefits under the programmes like adoption of High Yielding Varieties and Multiple Cropping, Input-subsidy, Demonstrations, Horticulture, Soil Conservation, Land Development, Minor Irrigation and subsidiary occupation like dairy, poultry piggery, sheep and goat rearing and pisciculture, Rural artisans and Rural works. The programme of rural works was implemented for marginal farmers and agricultural labourers only by the Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers (MFAL) Agencies to provide them off season wage employment. The resources for the programme were made available to the participants in the shape of subsidy (25 per cent to Small Farmers and 33-1/3 per cent to Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labourers) and the balance amount as loan from institutional sources. The rate of subsidy for Community Minor Irrigation programme was 50 per cent, so as to promote group activity among weaker sections. The Agencies also provided interest free share capital loan for enrolment of identified Small/Marginal farmers and agricultural labourers as members of cooperatives enable them to borrow from cooperative societies.

Subsidiary occupations constituted one of the important component of programmes implemented by the Agencies. Marginal farmers and agricultural labourers received priority under subsidiary occupations. Such programmes were taken up in compact areas having necessary infrastructure for collection and marketing of animal products like milk, eggs, etc.