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The World Bank

1818 H Street NW

Washington DC 20433

Telephone: 202-473-1000

Internet: www.worldbank.org

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The World Bank/IFC/MIGA
OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 6, 1993 01:39pm

TO: Gershon Feder

(GERSHON FEDER)

FROM: Jock Anderson, AGRAP

(JOCK ANDERSON)

EXT.: 30437

SUBJECT: India - 1993 Country Economic Memorandum
Section on Initiating Reform in Agriculture

1. There is a typo in para 2.55 that should read "cereal varieties" rather than "seed varieties."

2. On page 44, I find a strange inconsistency between the statement about "recent developments posing serious challenges to the country's ability to sustain its hard-won self-sufficiency" (para 2.56), and the plea two paragraphs later for "freely operating markets and increased reliance on the private sector in all levels of production and marketing." If comparative advantage is the driving force in improved national allocation of resources, then self-sufficiency per se is not a worthy policy objectives and thus should not attract the acknowledged concern.

3. The rest of this section is unexceptional but for a proposition in the paragraph 2.68. I do not think that a case has been made that "Much of India's effort should be redirected to [non-staple crops and other rural activities]." represent a very significant policy shift and one that would, amongst other things, be highly non-congruent. It would also be inconsistent with the earlier state virtues of "self-sufficiency in basic foods." Whichever way the argument here ultimately goes, there seems to be a clear case for more careful investigation before making such a strong and unqualified recommendation.

CC: Michel Petit

(MICHEL PETIT)

CC: Bill Easter

(PAPER MAIL)

CC: Institutional ISC Files

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