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## India

### Agricultural Situation

### Weekly Highlights and Hot Bites, #35

2004

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**Report Highlights:**

\*Industry demands adequate quarantine check on imports\*, \*Government readying new biotech policy on agriculture and health, says Sibal\*.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
New Delhi [IN1]  
[IN]

Welcome to Hot Bites from India, a weekly summary of issues of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The report includes information that has been garnered during travel within India, reported in the local media, or offered by host country officials and agricultural analysts. Press articles are included in this report. Significant issues will be expanded upon in subsequent reports from this office.

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### **INDUSTRY DEMANDS ADEQUATE QUARANTINE CHECK ON IMPORTS**

The agro and food industry has cautioned the government to put in place adequate checks for quarantine and sanitary and phytosanitary measures at points of entry while going ahead with the process of liberalizing imports of seeds, bulbs, tubers, and planting materials, as the existing checks at the points of entry are very poor. The industry has advocated setting up of warehousing facilities at ports where the consignments can be detained for checking. (Source: Financial Express, 09/06/04)

*Post Comment:* The *Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana* (Special Agricultural Produce Scheme) announced by the government as part of the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 seeks to liberalize imports of seeds, bulbs, tubers, and planting materials.

### **GOVERNMENT READYING NEW BIOTECH POLICY ON AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH, SAYS SIBAL**

Kapil Sibal, Minister for Science and Technology, said that the government is working on a new biotech policy in the field of agriculture and health. The new biotech policy covering the pharmaceutical sector is expected to be ready by January 2005, while the policy pertaining to Ag. Biotech will take more time. He emphasized the concept of public-private partnerships in research and development, but added that an environment conducive to these linkages must be created in India. (Source: Financial Express, 9/8/04)

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<b>REPORT #</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>DATE SUBMITTED</b>
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IN4096	FAIRS Product Specific - Draft standard for Indian ready to serve non-alcoholic beverages	09/10/04

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