

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether there is any other scheme with the Food Corporation of India to reach out to rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Food Corporation of India has its base depots in different States/Union Territories for supplying foodgrains to them for public distribution system and other schemes as per the allocations made by the Central Government. Further arrangements for distribution to consumers are to be made by the State Governments.

Formation of Export Promotion Council for Natural Silk

6488. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Silk Board has been entrusted with all activities relating to silk including its export policy by an Act passed by Parliament;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that two years ago, Government constituted an independent Export Promotion Council for natural silk;

(c) if so, the reasons for constituting a Council when the Central Silk Board, a statutory body was performing all the functions entrusted to the Council;

(d) the additional amount spent on the Council and the justifications therefor;

(e) the role of Central Silk Board in export promotion; and

(f) whether it will not be against the interest of silk exports if two bodies are involved for the same work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (e). Under the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the Board has been assigned the role to promote development of silk industry in the country and to advise the Central Government in the matters relating to Import and Export. The role of Central Silk Board in export promotion is advisory in nature and is limited to preshipment inspection of natural silk goods.

(b) to (d) Prior to the setting up of Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (I S E.P.C.) at Bombay in 1983, work relating to exports of silk goods was partially handled by two Export Promotion Councils, viz, (i) Silk and Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Councils and (ii) Handloom Export Promotion Council which were also handling other items. With a view to tap vast export potential for silk items, Government decided to set up a independent Export Promotion Council for undertaking exclusive export promotion activities relating to silk items. This Council was declared as sole registering authority for silk exporters with effect from 1.4.1984. Since the inception of the Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, the Government has released the following grants to be Council from Market Development Assistance Fund :

1983-84	Rs. 2.65 lakhs
1984-85	Rs. 13.27 lakhs
1985-86	Rs. 12.80 lakhs

(f) Does not arise, as the Central Silk Board and Indian Silk Export Promotion Council have been assigned different roles.

Permission to Banks to Take up Leasing Activities

6489. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER ; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the nationalised banks to whom licences have been given to enter into leasing activities; and