

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion for allowing import of gold by certain categories of Indian passport holders to check its smuggling; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestions received in this regard have been referred to the Working Group on Gold Policy set up by the Government of India whose report is awaited.

Loan for construction of houses to bank employees

2238. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sufficient amount is not sanctioned by the nationalised banks in Karnataka to their employees for construction/purchase of houses;

(b) if not, the amount sanctioned for the purpose during last 3 years;

(c) the number of loan applications for house construction/purchase received by the nationalised banks in Karnataka from their employees which are still pending; and

(d) the number of employees who will be granted loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Government do not appear to have received any representation in this regard from the employees of any of the nationalised banks in Karnataka.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The number of employees who could get Housing Loan in any year would depend on the quantum of funds available, the quantum of funds sought by each applicant

and also the number of employees fulfilling the eligibility conditions.

Production of silk in Karnataka

2239. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of silk produced in the country;

(b) the percentage of the total quantity of silk produced in Karnataka State;

(c) whether there was a proposal to double the production of silk in Karnataka and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The total quantity of silk produced in the country during 1985-86 (both mulberry and non-mulberry) is estimated to be 7855 Millions tonnes.

(b) The percentage of mulberry silk produced in Karnataka State during 1985-86 is estimated to be 61.3 per cent of total quantity of mulberry silk produced in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of Karnataka during the VIth Plan period implemented a Sericulture Development Project with World Bank assistance at a cost of Rs. 79.85 crores. The project aimed at doubling the production of raw silk during the VIth Plan period. Year wise production figures of mulberry silk produced in Karnataka during the VIth Plan are as given below :

Year	Mulberry silk (production in M. Tonnes)
1980-81	2878
1981-82	3000
1982-83	3200
1983-84	3345
1984-85	4509