

To boost exports of fruits and vegetables major products, Agricultural and processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) extends financial assistance to the exporters for various developmental schemes, participates in International Food Exhibitions and conducts buyer-seller meets. In the case of items of mass consumption, restrictions such as quantitative ceilings or a complete ban on export of agricultural products are stipulated where necessary.

[English]

Central Silk Board

3715. SHRI RAM SINGH KASHWAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have since streamlined the functioning of the Central Silk Board in order to promote silk production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to boost the silk production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). The functioning of the Central Silk Board and progress of various schemes being implemented by the Board is reviewed periodically and, as and when necessary, steps are taken to ensure smooth functioning/implementation of the programmes of the Board.

The steps being taken to boost the production of silk include bringing additional area under mulberry, introduction of new varieties of mulberry, improving silkworm seed quality, development of new varieties of

silkworm races, effective disease control measures etc.

Development of Minor Ports as Major Ports

3716. SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK:
SHRI V. SOBHA NADREESWARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the name of minor/intermediate ports proposed to be developed as major ports during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Government of Orissa for development of Gopalpur port as an all weather port; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Government is not considering any such proposal.

(b) No formal proposal has been received. However, in September 1990, State Government has requested for ADB assistance for this Port.

(c) Government did not find the proposal of ADB assistance feasible.

National Export Insurance Fund

3717. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: