

issue directives to the Circle Offices not to harass Government servants in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) No, Sir. Bifurcation is allowed under certain conditions.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Delhi Administration has stated that no such complaint has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Ban on use of Colours and Flavours in Food Articles**

5888. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the proposed legislation for banning the use of synthetic colours and flavours in food articles and beverages has been finalised; and

(b) if so, the time by which the legislation is likely to be introduced in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b). The proposal to ban use of colours in food articles is being examined in consultation with experts.

#### **Import of Silk from China**

5889. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to import silk from China;

(b) if so, the total quantum of silk pro-

posed to be imported from China during 1989-90; and

(c) the total import of silk from China during 1987-88 and 1988-89, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c). In January, 1988 Government had permitted Central Silk Board to import 100 tonnes of raw silk under its Price Stabilisation Scheme. Out of this, a total quantity of 36 tonnes has been imported by the Board during the year 1987-88 and 1988-89. The balance quantity of 64 tonnes is likely to be imported during 1989-90.

#### **Export of Cotton**

5890. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Southern India Mills Association (SIMA) has criticised the Centre's decision to allow export of one lakh bales of cotton during this year on the plea that such a step would lead to a spurt in cotton prices and consequent increase in prices of cotton, and cotton yarn; and

(b) if so, the reasons which compelled the Government to take such a step and the response of Government to the criticism by the Association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The mill industry has been generally against export of cotton.

(b) The release of export quota was done, keeping in view the availability of cotton, the prices in the domestic market, and the ruling international prices in the interest of growers and earning foreign exchange.