

(a) the total quantum of raw silk including yarn imported during 1998;

(b) the name of the countries from whom silk was imported;

(c) whether import of raw silk is likely to continue during 1999 also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The total quantum of raw silk including yarn imported during 1998 (January 1998 to November, 1998) was 1794.2 tonnes (provisional) as per records of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS).

(b) As per DGCIS records, the raw silk was imported mainly from China, Brazil, Hong Kong, Russia, Singapore, Korea RP, Uzbekistan.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per present policy, in order to meet the demand of exporters, the Government has permitted the import of raw silk under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) wherein, the exporters are allowed to bring in duty free raw silk which is linked to export obligation. In addition, in October, 1998 it has also been decided to allow import of Grade 2A and above Mulberry raw silk

under Special Import Licence (SIL) with the stipulation that the value of the surrendered SIL would be three times the value of the imported items.

#### Share Transfer Agent

699. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of certificates of registration, as category-II (Share Transfer Agent) given by SEBI (Delhi) during the last three years;

(b) the total number of cases rejected by the Board with the reasons of rejection thereof;

(c) whether some allegation of large scale corruption and nepotism has been reported in the SEBI (Delhi);

(d) if so, the action taken by the SEBI on these allegations; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the functioning and efficiency of SEBI (Delhi) Branch?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) SEBI has given the following details of registration of Category-II Share Transfer Agents by its Northern Regional Office:

Year	No. of Registration	No. of renewals	No. of cases Rejected
1995-96	10	0	17
1996-97	12	0	20
1997-98	8	6	8
1998-99 (Upto 24.2.99)	1	2	0

The rejections were made for non-compliance with the SEBI (Registrars to an issue and Share Transfer Agents) Rules and Regulations, 1993 by the applicants.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

(e) Improvement in the functioning of SEBI is a continuous process.