

are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the managements for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in case of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as:

- (i) Conference on safety in mines,
- (ii) Self-regulation by management,
- (iii) Workers' participation in safety management,
- (iv) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels,
- (v) Training of work persons,
- (vi) Observance of safety weeks and Safety Campaigns,
- (vii) National Safety Awards.

(b) to (d) As compared to the previous decade, the number of fatal and serious accidents as well as resultant casualties/injuries in respect of gold mines have declined during the current decade.

(e) Special efforts viz. air conditioning and use of spot coolers in the mines of Kolar Gold Fields have been undertaken to improve the working condition of the workers in these mines. Also extensive scientific studies have been undertaken to minimise the rock bursts in these mines.

Smuggling of Silk

6074. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA:

SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the smuggling of raw silk from some neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received some representation from the silk producers of the country in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of the domestic silk producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Available reports indicate illegal import of raw silk into India from Nepal, Bangladesh borders.

The Government of India have already drawn the

attention of Bangladesh Government to the matter with a request to take urgent measures to check smuggling of raw silk to India and matter is also being taken up with Nepal Government. Alert instructions have been issued to the field formations to ensure suitable deterrence to attempts of smuggling including smuggling of raw silk.

Investigation against AEPC by DGI

6075. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 has directed the Director General of Investigation to start preliminary investigation into the complaints against Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi relating to allocation of quota;

(b) if so, the details of complaints received by MRTPC in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the investigation is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (c) On the basis of a complaint made by All India Garment Exporters Common Cause Guild and Globe Overseas Trading Corporation, the MRTPC Commission has directed the Director General of Investigation and Registration to carry out a preliminary investigation into the allegations against M/s. Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) and file the Preliminary Investigation Report thereof within 60 days.

The complainants have alleged in their complaint that the respondent council, M/s. AEPC has furnished wrong data while making its recommendations to the Government regarding quantities to be released under the First-cum-First Served (FCFS) System on 28.10.1996 and has thereby manipulated the conditions of distribution of quota. The matter is now listed before the Commission on 10.7.1997 for consideration of the Preliminary Investigation Report.

Exim Bank

6076. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of number of branches of Exim Banks presently functioning in each State;

(b) the number of SC/ST and Minorities staff working category-wise; and

(c) the details of the backlog amongst these categories as on date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has reported that it has six Regional Representative Offices located in New Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai and Ahmedabad.