

[English]

Development of Oak Tasar Industry in Garhwal Region

752. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board (CSB) has set up any Regional Tasar Silk Research Station in Garhwal region for extending necessary research and development and extension support to the oak tasar industry in the region:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the works undertaken by it so far;

(c) whether the Central Silk Board has conducted any survey to identify specific villages for development of oak tasar cultures in the region:

(d) if so, the salient features of the survey: and

(e) the action taken thereon and the programme chalked out for oak tasar silk development in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in order to explore the potential of Oak tasar culture in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has established a Regional Tasar Research Station at Bhimtal. Besides undertaking several experiments, this Station has introduced a modified seed crop rearing schedule.

(c) to (e) Central Silk Board has assisted the Department of Sericulture, Government of Uttar Pradesh in a survey undertaken by them to identify specific villages for development of Oak tasar in Garhwal region. This survey was undertaken in 4 districts of Garhwal region consisting of 25 Block and 282 villages. Total tasar forest area available in the 4 districts of Garhwal region is 4325 hectares.

The Central Silk Board can take further action for development of oak tasar culture in this region, after the basic problems affecting the sector, such as multiplication of seed in different altitudes, stabilisation of commercial cocoon crops, synchronisation of rearing schedules etc., are overcome through R&D work and an effective commercially viable technology is developed.

Bank Branches in Pauri-Garhwal Area

753. SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks working in Pauri, Chamoli, Tehri, Uttarkashi, Nainital and Almora districts; and

(b) the number of bank branches/extension counters proposed to be opened in these districts during the next two years to remove the imbalance, district wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) As on 30-6-1991, 320 branches of Public Sector Banks were functioning in Pauri-Garhwal, Chamoli, Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Nainital and Almora Districts as per details given below:—

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>No. of branches</i>
Pauri Garhwal	60
Chamoli	33
Tehri Garhwal	46
Uttarkashi	22
Nainital	98
Almora	61
Total	320