

(c) and (d). Gold is not an essential commodity and the Government does not propose to control its price.

[English]

Quotas Allotted to Garment Exporters

*703. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of SUPPLIES AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have directed the garment exporters to strictly follow quotas allotted to them and warned them that attempts on the contrary could force importing countries to be more restrictive;

(b) whether the exporters have been urged to concentrate on non-quota countries and non-quota products; and

(c) if so, how many exporters have agreed to the suggestions made by the Union Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Entitlements for export of garments to countries with which India has bilateral agreements are allotted to various exporters in accordance with the Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for garments and knit-wear announced by the Government from year to year. Under this Policy, exporters can export garments only upto the entitlements allotted to them,

(b) and (c). Government encourages exports of garments to non-quota countries as also of non-quota products. There has been considerable growth in such exports over the years.

Production of Silk

*704. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the types of silk produced in India;

(b) the total area in the country utilised for silk production;

(c) whether any intensive cultivation plan is being carried out in our country to produce more silk; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The types of silk produced in India are mulberry, tasar, eri and muga.

(b) The total area being utilised for silk production in the country is about 7.72 lakh hectares.

(c) and (d). For increasing production of raw silk in the country, Central Silk Board has been implementing special development projects and also central projects for supplementing the States' efforts in this regard. The major intensive Sericulture development projects are:

(i) A project for intensive sericulture development in Karnataka with World Bank Assistance.

(ii) Inter-State Tasar Project.

(iii) Muga Seed Development Project.

Gold Mines located in Orissa

*705. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether gold mines have been located in some parts of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether their quality and quantity have been examined and assessed;

(c) the steps taken for their exploitation; and

(d) the names of the places and districts where the gold mines have been located and steps for production of the areas to check in illegal and unauthorised processing thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Supply of Coal to West Bengal State Electricity Board

*706 SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any intimation from Government of West Bengal that due to poor quality of coal supply and also