

did not take away the question with him. He left it here itself.

SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question put by the hon'ble Member pertains to employment percentage. The National Sample Survey Organisation conducts a survey in regard to population and employment every five years. The figures available with us pertain to 1977-78 and 1983. The figures relating to the 1987-88 survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation have not yet reached us. This concerns the Planning Commission.

[English]

SHRI HAREN BHUMIJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding employment of labour in Assam, I would like to confine my question to tea plantation. Out of 7.9 lakh of the total plantation labour in India, 5 lakh labourers are employed in the tea gardens in Assam. In each family of the 5 lakh plantation labourers, there are 3 to 4 unemployed youths. Employers are also not keen in increasing the number of labourers in the tea gardens of Assam. On the other hand Assam Tea Corporation, under which there are 19 tea gardens, has already been taken over by the Government. 25,000 to 30,000 workers are employed in these tea gardens. These workers have 3 to 5 dependants which makes the number to 75,000 to 1 lakh. Because of the sickness of these Assam Tea Corporation gardens, they are not able to pay PF or gratuity to the workers. They are on the verge of closure and so they are not in a position to pay even their daily wages. From time to time, we have brought these things to the notice of the Government. A Question was put to the Commerce Ministry also. In view of all these things, I would like to know what steps the Ministry of Labour is going to take in this regard so that the sick tea gardens under ATC could be revived and restored and those 25,000 workers in ATC gardens and also the workers in other tea gardens could be provided jobs so that they can lead a smooth life.

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is about the percentage of employed persons in Assam, vis-a-vis the all India percentage. The question he has asked about tea plantations is not particularly related to the main question. But the figures available with me in regard to the number of people who have been provided employment in Assam is comparison to All India percentage as furnished by the National Sample Survey Organisation pertain to 1977, 1978 and 1983. I can give you the figures if you so desire. The all India percentage of employment of males in rural areas is 62.25 whereas it is 58.5 percent in Assam irrespective of the fact whether they work in the field, tea plantations agriculture, hotel or any other establishment, but they are in employment. The All India percentage of females in employment is 28.8 whereas in Assam, it is 7.50. Similarly, in urban areas, the All India percentage of male employment is 56.22 and that of females 14.03. In Assam, out of the total population absorbed in employment, the male percentage is 53.59 and that of females, 5.25. These figures pertain to 1977-78. According to 1983 figures, the All-India percentage of male employment in rural areas is 61.28 and in Assam it is 55.70. Similarly, the All-India percentage of female employment in rural areas is 28.73 and in Assam it is 8.13. In urban areas, the All India percentage of male employment is 56.75, while it is 53.87 in Assam. Similarly, in urban areas, the All India percentage of female employment is 13.76, while it is 6.77 in Assam. Thus, we find that unlike what has been pointed out by the hon. Member, the employment percentage in Assam is higher if we go by the figures provided by the National Sample Survey Organisation.

(Interruptions)

[English]

Incentives for Silk Production

*226. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives offered by Union Government to encourage silk production in the country; and

(b) the steps taken to production high quality of silk fabrics for sale at internationally competitive prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) For encouraging silk production in the country the Central Silk Board (CSB) supplements the efforts of the State Governments by implementing the following Schemes:

- (i) Supply of high yielding varieties of mulberry cuttings at subsidised rates.
- (ii) Supply of quality silkworm seed to sericulturists through a network of Seed Production Centres in the country.
- (iii) Providing R & D and Extension Support through a network of Research and Extension Units.
- (iv) Organising training programmes and conducting study tours for sericulturists.
- (v) Providing financial assistance to States for control of uzifly.
- (vi) Providing incentives bonus to bivoltine concoon producers and reelers through States.

Besides the CSB in collaboration with State Governments has launched a World Bank/Swiss-assisted National Sericulture Project during the current financial year at a cost of Rs. 55.30 crores over a period of 5 years

(b) The following steps have been taken to produce high quality silk fabrics for sale at internationally competitive prices:

1. A Central Silk Technological Research Institute has been set up by the Board at Bangalore to tackle the technology aspects of post concoon harvest viz; silk reeling, twisting, weaving, dyeing, printing processing and finishing of silk fabrics.
2. Demonstration-cum-Training Centres have been established in different parts of the country for demonstration of appropriate technology of silk reeling and spinning.
3. The Central Silk Technological Research Institute has innovated and released multiend reeling machine with 10 end basin for popularisation among reelers to reel better quality raw silk.
4. Silk exporters have been allowed the facility to import raw material at international prices under various export promotion schemes like REP/Advance Licensing, Pass Block Schemes etc. to produce high quality silk fabrics for sale in internationally competitive prices.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, millions of farmers are dependent on sericulture. I have gone through the statement of hon. Minister. In the statement it is stated, "besides th OSB in collaboration with State Governments has launched a World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project during the current financial year at a cost of Rs. 555.30 crores over a period of 5 years."

May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the production target and what is the total employment opportunity generated out of the investment in the programme? I also want to know whether the production will meet our demand or again we will have to

import silk from other countries.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): The National Sericulture Project, which the hon. member has mentioned, is being launched this year at the cost of Rs. 555.30 crores for the next five year plan. It will increase 6000 tonnes of melburry raw silk production over a period of five years 1990-94 over the present level of production of 9666 tonnes. So, this is an increase that we envisaged. As regards employment, it will rise from 60.30 lakh persons to 65.48 lakh persons by the end of the period. Our export earnings will increase from the level of Rs. 330 crores to Rs. 850 crores by 1994-95. It is not possible at this stage to say whether we will be self-sufficient, because the demand for the silk for the domestic market as well as export is rising all the time. But we believe that the tempo generated by this National Project would enable us to increase production in the year to come.

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: A special project for the development of hilly area had been implemented in Orissa by the Central Silk Board upto 1985-86. What is the total investment for the Project? What is the total hectares of land available for the Project? What is the total number of beneficiaries including weaker sections and tribals who will benefit out of this Project? Will this Project be continued or discontinued? If this Project is to be continued, who is going to fund it?

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: There are two projects which are under implementation in Orissa. One is called Intensive Sericulture Development Project. The Silk Board has been implementing this Project in Ganjam District of Orissa at the total cost of Rs. 4.27 crores of which Rs. 78 lakhs is the central share. The Project is for a four years period. It had been initiated during the year 1986-87. The Project envisages raising of 1000 acres of melburry plantation in the private sector and production of 17,000 kilos of silk at the end of the Project period. Similarly, a Tusser Development Project in

Orissa and Maharashtra is also being implemented by the Central Silk Board with the financial assistance from the Swiss Development Corporation. The total project cost is Rs. 559.00 lakhs of which Rs. 45 lakhs is for Orissa and Rs. 108 lakhs for Maharashtra. The Project period is four years. The Project envisages production of tusser silk and fruit plantation. It was implemented in the Sixth Plan. It will also cover the establishment of additional grainage, Pilot Project and other things that go with this. I do not have with me the figure of how much employment will be generated and other things, as the hon. Member has asked. I will seek to supply them to him by a written letter.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: In view of abundant availability of oak trees in the hilly areas and foothills of Manipur, the Silk Board has a unit in Manipur for tusser industry. So far as our information goes, this unit so far has been able to produce only samples; and many years have passed. What is the actual position of the Manipur Unit of the tusser industry? Is it making any headway? What is the amount of investment so far made? Is the Project going to make any headway or is it going to be closed down? We do not see significant production in spite of abundant availability of the oak trees so favourable to the production of tusser industry.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The problem is that not only in Manipur but in other States also the interest that the State Government takes in the production of silk, particularly tusser silk, which is just available sometimes even widely in the forest is not picking up.

Even the bigger States do not have a separate department of sericulture. Whatever request we receive from the State Governments for technical and other assistance has always been accommodated to the extent possible. I do not know the present situation in Manipur since the question is of a general nature. But I would certainly see that any request that comes from Manipur for increased production for tusser silk would be dealt with properly by the Central Silk Board

and the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister deserves our congratulations for preparing such a good project for the development of sericulture. The schemes launched by the Central Government have been concentrated at the places where production of sericulture has been taking place through the traditional method. There are certain new areas where the Silk Board as well as the Ministry of Textiles have not paid as much attention as they were supposed to. As a result of that, development of sericulture could not take place at these places. For example, the potentialities of sericulture development can be increased if it is promoted in terai region of Uttar Pradesh viz. Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Ghonda and Baharaich. But none of these places find any mention in the projects prepared for this purpose. The headquarters of Silk Board is located in Bangalore, a distance of 3000 kilometres from here. It has, therefore, not been possible for the board to monitor the situation such a long distance. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister considering any proposal to have an office of the Silk Board at any of these places on the pattern of one in Bangalore, so that the potentialities of sericulture development could be increased and proper monitoring could be done. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Chief Minister of the States referred to by the hon. Minister have made any request to him in writing to this effect.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: It is a fact that there are some States which are engaged in sericulture development for the last many years and are producing silk in large quantities. So far as the question of Uttar Pradesh is concerned, the Central Government is making all out efforts to see that silk production increases in the State. For this purpose, I wrote letters myself. Not only that, I held talks with the Chief Minister when I was on a visit to Lucknow. He has opened a separate office for this under this charge of a director. Earlier some other departments

were also under the charge of that director. Today I have come to know that he will look after this department independently. The new project which has been taken up and a mention of which was made by me just now, covers Uttar Pradesh and two districts namely, Deharadun and Saharanpur have been identified for development of sericulture. Uttar Pradesh is a multi-climatic State having some hilly regions in it. As such there is a large potential of sericulture production in the State. We will make all out efforts, especially, for the reason that consumption of silk is high in this area. Varanasi alone requires about 2,500 tonnes whereas the total production in Uttar Pradesh is 25 tonnes. In view of this a lot remains to be done to raise silk production in Uttar Pradesh. The Central Silk Board and the Central Government are taking it very seriously so as to ensure that silk production increases in Uttar Pradesh alongwith other States which are termed as non-traditional States.

[*English*]

Loss of Mandays due to Strikes and Lockouts

*228. **SHRI S.G. GHOLAP:** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mandays lost due to strikes and lockouts in various States in 1988-89 and whether there was any improvement in this regard as compared to 1987-88; and

(b) the specific steps contemplated to improve industrial relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHA KISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) and (b). Information on loss of mandays is maintained by calendar years only. Industrial relations as indicated by the loss of mandays during the period 1987-89 (January-April) shows an improvement with the loss of mandays declining from 35.36 million in 1987 to 32.10