

(d) the scheme proposed for development of sericulture and silk industry in north India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (c). Though the head office of the Central Silk Board is at Bangalore, it has got a network of its units in various parts of the country to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for development of sericulture. Central Silk Board's existing units in North India are in a position to meet the present requirements of this region, and commensurate with the pace of sericulture development in this region, Central Silk Board's units will be strengthened. The setting up of a Technological Institute in this region will be considered at the appropriate time.

(d) The Central Silk Board has proposed a Central Sericulture Project at a total cost of Rs. 263 crores. This Project, which aims at increasing silk production by 4900 M. tonnes, includes in its coverage North India also.

[English]

Shifting of regional office of Silk Board

2232. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to shift the regional office of the Silk Board from its present location;

(b) if so, where, by what time and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the expenditure will not increase considerably as a result thereof;

(d) whether it will not affect adversely the facilities made available to silk exporters; and

(e) if so, the justification for shifting the said regional office ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). The Central Silk Board has proposed to shift its Regional Office from the present location to the World Trade Centre Connaught Place, New Delhi, for the reasons mentioned in reply to parts (d) and (e) of the Question. The proposal is under consideration of the Government of India.

(c) Yes, Sir. The expenditure will increase as the market rent in Connaught Place is higher than the present place.

(d) and (e) The present premises belong to a silk exporter and is in an industrial area which is considered not suitable for the location of Central Silk Board's Regional Office. It is proposed to shift the Regional Office to Central Place where other Government organisations are also located.

[Translation]

Separate trade cell for Gulf countries

2233. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision for setting up a separate trade cell for promotion of trade with Arab and Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the outline thereof; and

(c) the time by which this cell is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) No, Sir. A separate division to look after exports to West Asia and North Africa is already in existence.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Export of electronic goods by Trade Development Authority

2234. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :