

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b). The most important objective of the Cotton Corporation of India is to lend support to the cotton growers. The Corporation enters the market right from the beginning of arrival of cotton and purchases cotton at ruling market prices in competition with other buyers. Its presence in the cotton market ensures remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. The Corporation has also been designated as the agency to render price support operations in the event of the prices of cotton falling below the support level announced by the Government. In fulfilment of this objective, the Corporation has purchased a quantity of 34,790 bales from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh at support prices upto 8 April, 1985.

(c) and (d). The prices of cotton vary from variety to variety. Support price for DCH-32 and MCU-5 varieties of Kapas have been fixed at Rs. 600 and Rs. 555 per quintal respectively and the same price has been paid by the Cotton Corporation of India while effecting purchases under price support operations in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh without making any discrimination.

(e) No, Sir.

#### Opening of Branch of United Commercial Bank at Jangla, District Simla

2773. SHRI RAM SAMUJHAWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United Commercial Bank has proposed to open a branch office at Jangla, District Simla; and

(b) if so, the likely date by which this branch office or the bank is going to be opened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). A licence has been issued to United Commercial Bank on 5-3-1985 for opening a branch at Jangla District Simla, Himanchal Pradesh. The bank has been advised to open the branch as early as possible.

#### Incentives to Silk Exporters of Bihar

2774. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND

SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of silk exported from Bihar to various countries during the last two years; and

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to increase incentives to these silk exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Export of natural silk goods from Bihar is made mainly through the Bhagalpur certification centre of the Central Silk Board. During the last two years figures of export from this Centre are as under :

Year	Qty. (lakh sq. mtrs.)
1982-83	8.12
1983-84	11.92

(b) Government have provided various incentives which are reviewed from time to time.

#### Capacity Utilisation of Steel Plants

2775. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTAIAK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the public sector steel plants in the country have been found working below capacity with regard to production of hot metal, ingot steel and saleable steel during the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the poor show and the steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). SAIL plants have not been able to operate at their rated capacities mainly because of constraints of adequate and the right quality of coking coal, deterioration in other raw materials, inadequate power supply, obsolete technology and ageing of plants. To achieve the rated capacity, efforts are being made to ensure adequate inputs and of the right quality, improvement in raw materials, better maintenance and technological upgradation by refurbishing and revamping of the steel plants.