

(d) the efforts made by Government so far in the field of research and development of sericulture and its extension activity in the country and the results achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). As compared to the position at the end of VIth Plan the targets set for Seventh Plan envisage increase of 28.12% in the area under mulberry cultivation and 44.74% in mulberry silk production. It is estimated that these targets will be achieved.

(c) It is estimated that at present about 80% of the demand of raw silk is met from indigenous production.

(d) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments to encourage the development of the silk industry, the Central Silk Board has established the following major units in the country for R & D and Extension Support:

- (i) 3 Central Sericulture Research & Training Institute.
- (ii) 1 Central Technological Research and Training Institute.
- (iii) 15 Regional Sericulture Stations.
- (iv) 64 Research & Extension Centres.
- (v) 21 Silkworm Seed Production Centres under the National Silkworm Seed Project.

As a result of research achievements in a span of ten years average per hectare productivity of raw silk has increased from 25 Kgs. to 32.5 Kgs. In addition, the renditta has been cut down from 17 to 10, that is, 10 Kgs. of cocoons produce one Kg. of raw silk as

compared to 17 Kgs. of cocoons producing 1 Kg. of silk earlier.

Processed Food Industry In Thrust Area

7143. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps proposed further to give effective content to the policy of putting the processed food industry in the Thrust Area; and

(b) the expected excise revenue from the Thrust Area?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Measures to increase of processed food items, inter-alia, include grant of Cash Compensatory Support, Import Replenishment and drawback on a number of processed food items. Import of a number of food processing and packaging machinery items have placed in OGL.

(b) Central Excise is refunded by way of duty drawback on all exports which include processed food items.

Export Obligation of Companies

7144. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the procedure for reporting and monitoring the export obligations are met with by foreign collaborations;

(b) the list of companies which have discharged export obligations in last three years, the amount of exports committed and the exports achieved; and

(c) the names of companies which have