

(Sept. 1988 to 2.3.1989), the Corporation has so far purchased 3.96 lakh bales. Prices have ruled well above minimum support levels during the cotton year 1987-88 as well as during the current cotton season and there has been no occasion for the Corporation to undertake price support operations.

Dereservation of posts for SC/ST in FCI and HVOC

1740. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Class I, II and III employees working in the Food Corporation of India and the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation Limited, separately, as on 31 December, 1988 and the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Employees among them;

(b) the number of posts for SC/ST in direct recruitment and promotion quotas dereserved in the said corporations during the last three years, year wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check dereservation of posts for SC/ST in the above corporations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Cotton Yarn

1741. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any limit fixed for the export of cotton yarn, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the quantity and value of cotton yarn exported during 1987-88; and

(c) the estimated export during 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The exports of cotton yarn in count group 1-60s are allowed within an annual ceiling of 40 million kgs. during 1989. However, the exports of hank yarn in this count group are not allowed. There is no restriction on export of cotton yarn of counts above 61s.

(b) and (c). According to the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, the exports of cotton yarn during 1987-88 amounted to 85.41 million kgs. valued at Rs. 341.3 crores. As per the Council's estimate, cotton yarn exports during 1988-89 would be around 40 million kgs.

Decline in Infant Mortality rate during Seventh Plan

1742. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infant mortality rate has registered a decline during the Seventh Plan;

(b) if so, the rate as on 1 April, 1985 and 1 January, 1989 and the various steps taken to bring down the rate alongwith comparative figures at the beginning and end of each of the plans; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard to register a sharp decline in this rate alongwith the figures for this rate in other developing Asian countries?