

(e) The agreement entered into by the Government of India with M/s. Citizen Watch Co., Tokyo for the manufacture of watches was laid on the Table of the House on the 28th April, 1960.

S.E.A.T.O. Education Conference

*267. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been invited to attend the Education Conference organised by SEATO which is being held in Karachi in the month of January and February, 1961; and

(b) if so, whether the invitation has been accepted?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) and (b). No formal invitation was received but on being approached informally the Government of India stated that they were unable to arrange for participation in the Conference by eminent Indian academicians.

Sericulture Industry

*269. { **Shri Muhammed Elias:**
 { **Shri Raghunath Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to improve the quality and quantity of sericulture; and

(b) if so, what are those steps?

The Minister of Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India has constituted a Statutory Body namely the Central Silk Board to promote development of the Silk Industry in all its aspects. The Central Sericultural Research Station, Berhampore, an organisation under the administrative control of the Government of

India, also is entrusted with the responsibility of conducting experiments to bring about improvement and economy in the different stages of Silk production. The lines on which these two Bodies endeavour to achieve their objects are as indicated broadly in the Statement. I am placing on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Central Silk Board

(i) It assists the State Governments in the formulation of schemes for the development of Sericulture and recommends financial assistance by the Central Government towards such schemes.

(ii) It co-ordinate the developments work in the States.

(iii) It undertakes schemes for training and development of special races of silkworms. The Central Silkworm Seed Station, Srinagar has been set up for the preservation of mother-stock of silkworm races. The All India Sericultural Training Institute, Mysore has been set up for imparting advanced training in Sericulture.

(iv) It regulates the import of raw silk and its distribution in order to stabilise the price of silk at an economic level and to make up to some extent the deficiency of raw silk in the Country.

(v) To consider from time to time the necessity of:—

(a) deputing officers abroad for higher training in sericulturally advanced countries Japan & China.

(b) securing supplies of improved strains in silkworm and mulberry.

(c) securing services of experts from abroad.