

time. Export of natural silk goods from India to Europe have also shown satisfactory trend in the past. In fact, as against the export of Rs. 38.32 crores during 1983-84 the export during the year was of the order of Rs. 47.56 crores. Therefore, the question of China replacing India as a premier supplier of silk to Europe does not arise.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: "(a) Under the Export Policy export of raw silk is on 'merit' and is therefore not allowed freely."

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no, Mr. Minister. Just a minute. You have said that a statement is laid on the Table of the House. You have only to place the statement on the Table.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: Sir, I would request the honourable Minister to refer to his statement wherein it is mentioned that "Under the Export Policy export of raw silk is on 'merit'." What steps or measures is the Government contemplating to take to see that the raw silk markets are not taken over by other silk-producing countries like China and Japan? We were exporting earlier but in 1983-84 and 1984-85 there has been no export of silk to Europe. May I know the reasons therefor?

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH: Sir, first of all there is a confusion in the question. The question refers to raw silk. Raw silk, in our terminology, is filature silk, that is, yarn before it is twisted and export of raw silk, that is, filature silk, is not allowed. But perhaps the honourable Member means raw silk as is used in common parlance, that is, silk fabric which has a rough texture.

But we don't have figures of raw silk export. However, I can give the figure of silk exports.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: They are already there. I just wanted to know.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA: This is very clear in the statement itself, the difference between the raw silk and the natural silk. Since it mentions that in 1983-84 and 1984-85 there was no export, it implies that there was export of silk earlier. The question just is what the reasons are in this regard.

And the second supplementary I would like to ask is: Has the Government undertaken any scientific survey or research to find out, if we can find out, international markets to compete with China which is doing its level best to enter all these markets?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

RE. STARRED QUESTION NO. 304

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MR. CHAIRMAN: There was a confusion in respect of Question No. 304. The hon. Member, Shri Indradeep Sinha, thought that there was a statement laid on table of the House, but it was actually an answer. Probably the Minister would have read it. I did not want the time of the Question Hour to be taken in a discussion on that. Therefore, I have postponed it. We will take it up on a suitable occasion.