

(c) what are the details regarding sale of mica from Rajasthan during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) to (c) There has been marginal reduction in exports of mica from India since March, 1975 due to general recession in principal importing countries. Consequently, there was also reduction in demand for processed mica from Rajasthan. Exports of mica from Rajasthan are not recorded separately.

†Foreign Exchange Regulation Act

*161. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to amend the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have given some concessions to foreign companies under the Act during 1975-76; and

(d) if so, what are the names of the companies to which such concessions have been given ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) Certain minor amendments elucidatory in nature to the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 are under contemplation. As no concrete shape has been given to the contemplated amendments, it is not possible at this stage to specify the details thereof.

(c) The hon. Members are presumably referring to the amendments to the guidelines issued for administering Section 29 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 which has been amplified recently and a copy of which was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 10th May, 1976. In accordance with these guidelines, the

†Transferred from the 10th May, 1976, (Previously numbered as Starred Question 23.)

Reserve Bank of India will give due consideration, while deciding the equity level of the company, to the activities of foreign companies engaged in Appendix I—Industries or sophisticated technology or exports.

(d) The Reserve Bank of India have asked the foreign companies which may be eligible under the amplified guidelines to make an application to them by 31-5-76 to enable them to examine their cases for dilution of equity. The names of such companies would thus be known only after 31-5-76 and after the Reserve Bank of India have screened the applications.

Export of silk

*162. SHRI NRIPATI RANJAN CHOUDHURY :

SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY:

SHRIMATI LEELA DAMODARA MENON :

DR. RAJAT KUMAR CHAKRABARTI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the value of silk fabrics and other silk products exported so far during the year 1976;

(b) whether Government have explored the possibilities of boosting the export of silk fabrics and other silk products; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :

(a) The value of silk goods exports during the first quarter of the year 1976 is Rs. 4.53 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

1. In 1971, the Central Silk Board had sent a delegation to West Europe, USA, Japan & Hongkong to make a thorough study of the demand pattern likely to emerge in coming years to enable Indian Silk Industry to plan the production programme accordingly.