

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the modifications made therein; and

(c) the extent to which the plight of cotton farmers have been improved by this change in procurement policy?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) A reference has been received from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh suggesting inter-alia, that Government should direct the Cotton Corporation of India to purchase 20% of the market arrivals of cotton in Andhra Pradesh. The Corporation has been entrusted under the Textile Policy of 1985, amongst other things, to undertake price support operation whenever the market price of kapas touches the support price announced by the Government without any quantity limit and to undertake commercial operations at its own risk which does not envisage purchase of a fixed quantum from any particular State.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Tobacco Cultivation**

2273. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under tobacco cultivation in the country at present, State-wise; and

(b) the area covered under the tobacco cultivation during each of the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEDGDE) : (a) Total area under FCV tobacco cultivation during the current year i.e. 1998-99 (provisional) is as follows:-

State	Area (Hect.)
Andhra Pradesh	92.782.00
Maharashtra	106.00
Orissa	508.00
Karnataka	54,235.00
Total	1,47,631.00

(b) The area covered under FCV tobacco cultivation during the last 5 years is as under:-

State	Area-Hectares				
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Andhra Pradesh	87,531.00	76,645.00	96,114.00	1,19,437.00	1,12,578.00
Maharashtra	117.00	89.00	196.00	196.00	210.00
Orissa	48.00	52.00	100.00	180.00	252.00
Karnataka	35,136.00	29,601.00	27,729.00	32,910.00	40,988.00
Total	1,22,832.00	1,06,387.00	1,24,139.00	1,52,723.00	1,54,028.00

#### **TREAD**

2274. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for clearance of Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development Programme (TREAD) for rural women; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to sanction the pending projects of Andhra Pradesh sent to them long back?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far 12 proposals have been sanctioned by Government for receiving grant under the Trade Related Entrepreneurship Assistance and Development (TREAD) scheme for women. Out of 12 proposals, 8 are from Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

#### **Development for Temples of Himachal Pradesh**

2275. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted a study group to develop the famous temples in the country as tourist spots and that group has also recommended for developing the world famous temples of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken on the recommendations so far and

(d) the amount allocated for this purpose and the temples which have been developed as tourist places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Pilgrim Committee set up by the Ministry of Tourism has identified the following pilgrim centres for development in Himachal Pradesh:

(i) Paunta Sahib.

(ii) Jwalaji

(c) The development of pilgrim centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government considers allocation for the development of tourist places on the basis of inter-se priority, availability of funds, etc.

(d) The amount of financial assistance provided so far to these centres which have been developed as tourist places is:

- (a) Jwalamukhi Rs.49.43 lakhs  
(b) Paunta Sahib Rs.27.11 lakhs

#### Import of Food Items

2276. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the food items, fruits and vegetables which have been imported during each of the last two years; and

(b) the foreign exchange spent on their import?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEDGDE) (a) and (b) The desired information in respect of food items, fruits and vegetables imported during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as under:-

	Value Rs. Lakhs c.i.f. value of import	
Food items*	1996-97	1997-98
Wheat	40375.93	97096.26
Rice	1.87	7.28
Other Cereal	49.59	37.31
Pulses	89033.76	83363.51
Vegetables		
(ITC(HS)-0701 to 0709)	140.59	372.38 (upto Nov.97)
Fruits (excluding dry dates)		
(ITC(HS)-0804 to 0810)	2293.69	483.44 (upto Nov.97)

\*Value for food items are provisional

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

[English]

#### Development of Tourist Spots in Orissa

2277. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN :  
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :  
SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals/projects submitted by Orissa Government for financial assistance for development of tourist spots, project-wise during the next year;

(b) whether the Government have drawn up any programme to develop the Buddhist religious places to attract Buddhist Tourists;

(c) if so, the details of places identified for the purpose;

(d) whether some of those tourist places of Buddhist interest are located in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details of the programmes prepared to develop those places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Prioritisation of tourism projects are finalised in consultation with the State Governments on year to year basis. No prioritisation of projects is approved in advance for the next financial year.

(b) to (e) Development of tourism is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure based on specific project proposals received from the State Governments and the availability of funds. The Union Ministry of Tourism have sanctioned the following projects for Buddhist religious places of Orissa:-

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
	1995-96	
1.	Amenities Centre at Dhauli	20.26
	1996-97	
1.	Refurbishment of monuments at Lalitgiri	25.00
2.	Refurbishment of monuments at Udaigir	20.00
3.	Refurbishment of monument at Ratnagiri	31.00
	1997-98	
4.	Tourist Reception Centre, Ratnagiri	75.00
5.	Tourist Reception Centre, Lalitgiri	25.00
6.	Tourist Reception Centre, Udaigiri	25.00

#### Loss due to Fire

2278. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI :  
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of coal destroyed due to fire annually on an average in the Mines of different coal fields of the country;

(b) the estimated loss per annum in rupee terms due to such fire;

(c) the total quantum of coal blocked and caved in Jharia due to fire;

(d) whether there have been increased in the incident of fire in recent years;