

### Kailash - Manasarovar Yatra

3618. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote tourism by opening Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra;

(b) if so, whether Indo-China frontier is proposed to be opened in order to facilitate tourists visiting Kailash-Manasarovar;

(c) if so, the efforts, made in this regard; and

(d) the details of the plan of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Ministry of Tourism promotes Tourism within the country. Kailash-Manasarovar, however, are on the Chinese side of the border.

(b) to (d) Ministry of External Affairs under a bilateral agreement with China organises Yatra with the assistance of Government of Uttar Pradesh and Government of India/ State Government agencies between June and September every year. The Yatra is conducted through the Lipulekh Pass connecting Gunji in Uttar Pradesh and Pulan (Taklakot) in Tibet.

Every year increasing number of yatris have been visiting Kailash and Manasarovar. The number of pilgrims has gone up from 230 in 1992 to 516 in 1997.

### Quality Silk Centres

3619. SHRIMATI RANI CHITRALEKHA BHONSLE :  
DR. SAROJA V. :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have been asked to take up the time bound programme for setting up of Quality Silk Centres in the area having large strength of silk farmers and weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of units modernised so far, State-wise, district-wise, particularly in Maharashtra and Tamilnadu;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided any assistance for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Senculture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/

programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural & extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk such as installation of common facility centre and backward integration in reeling sector.

[Translation]

### Non-Functioning Coal Mines

3620. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :  
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the coal mines where mining work is not being done by coal industry at present and the reasons therefor;

(b) the reasons for abandoning these coal mines at this stage and incurring heavy losses of exchequer to the respective States as well as to the nation;

(c) whether the Government propose to hand over these unviable mines to the private parties by making necessary amendments in the concerned Act once again;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The names of the coal mines which have been closed since nationalisation of coal mines upto 31.03.1998 in Coal India Limited which is under the administrative control of this Ministry are given in the Annexure. The reason for closure of these mines are exhaustion of mineable reserves, difficult geo-mining conditions, techno-economic unviability and safety considerations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of answer to part (c) of the question.

### Statement

#### EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED

1. Sanctoria, 2. East Jamehari, 3. Ratibati 5 & 6, 4. KLS Chalbalpur, 5. Chalbalpur Khas, 6. New Jamehari Khas, 7. Pure Searsole, 8. Damoda, 9. Seetaldash, 10. Belrui Dishergarh, 11. North Brook, 12. Gogla/Adjoy Bank, 13. Manderboni 1, 2 & 4, 14. Deoli, 15. B. Dhemo/Ramjilanpur, 16. Bank Simolia 7 & 8 17. Brights Rana, 18. Madhusudanpur 1 & 2, 19. Central Jamuria, 20. Nabakajora Ghanasyam, 21. Jote Janki, 22. Ratibati OC,