

7. Visa fees for a number of countries on a reciprocal basis have been abolished.
8. Bilateral agreements have been made with West Germany, Yugoslavia, Nordic Countries and Bulgaria for the abolition of visas for stay upto 90 days
9. The period of validity of the 21-day landing permit, which permits a visa-free entry, has been raised to 28 days
10. Facilitation procedures at airports have been improved
11. Liquor permits are given to foreign tourists free of charge on all-India basis by Indian Missions and Government of India Tourist Offices
12. Efforts are being made to eliminate the nuisance of beggars and touts.
13. A complaints cell in the Department has been created to deal with all tourist complaints for taking remedial measures
14. Incentives have been given to the travel trade by way of release of foreign exchange to enable them to undertake extensive overseas promotional tours and also to advertise in the leading international travel magazines abroad
15. As a part of publicity drive, the Tourism Department invites every year travel agents and travel writers/journalists/TV film producers from abroad for familiarisation visits to India.
16. Holiday resorts at Gulmarg, Kovalam and Goa are being created for destination traffic.
17. Major improvements are being made to our four international airports.
18. Wild-life tourism is being developed to attract wild life enthusiasts from abroad.
19. Financial assistance is given to voluntary organisations, institutions and other private parties in the tourist trade by way of grants and loans for improving and augmenting tourist facilities
20. Existing tourist facilities at important tourist centres are being improved wherever possible.
21. Places of tourist interest including archaeological monuments are being developed.
22. A training programme for building up a cadre of trained and qualified personnel for manning tourist services is being organised.
23. Special point-to-point fares have also been introduced on some international sectors of Air-India e.g New York/Bombay/Delhi, Paris-Delhi/Bombay/Calcutta etc within the IATA framework. Continuous efforts are being made through Air-India to introduce attractive promotional fares on as many sectors as possible to reduce the initial cost of travel to India and to face the stiff competition from other tourist destinations.
24. The World Tourism Organisation (WTO) had declared 1975 as the South Asia Tourism Year. It is expected that this would focus attention to India in the South Asian region

**Revenue from Oil, Tea and Jute
produced in Assam**

5921. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the amount of revenues earned by the Central Government from tea, oil and jute produced in Assam during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):
The required information is furnished hereunder:—

Description	Revenue earned during		
	1972-73	1973-74	1974-75 upto January, 1975 (Rs. in lakhs)
Tea	1250	1272	2114
Tea Cess	94	98	92
Mineral Oils	3821	4137	3520
Oil Cess	1	1	1
Jute Manufacture	12	11	9
Jute Twist Yarn	7	9	8

Escalation in Nylon prices

5922. SHRI RAGHUNANDANLAL BHATIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been frequent escalation in nylon prices ever since the defunct voluntary yarn pact was concluded particularly in Amritsar;

(b) if so, whether escalations announced by spinners in popular counts of yarn amounted to as high as 80 per cent;

(c) if so, facts thereof;

(d) whether Central Nylon Committee did not meet since October, 1974; and

(e) if so, the reasons thereof?

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

(a) to (c). There has been periodical escalation in nylon prices. Escalations are on account of the escalation clause regarding the increase in the price of caprolactum in the Voluntary Agreement between the nylon spinners and weavers. The escalation in the nylon yarn prices of popular counts during the period September, 1973 upto now approximately amount to 80 per cent.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) These meetings did not take place for want of quorum due to the absence of representatives of weavers associations in adequate number.

Cotton imported from Pakistan during 1974

5923. SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cotton imported from Pakistan in 1974;

(b) details of qualities of cotton imported from Pakistan during 1974; and

(c) what has been and would be the price of imported Pakistani Cotton as compared to Indian Cotton?

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

(a) and (b). There was no import of cotton from Pakistan during 1974. However, a contract was signed on 31st January, 1975 between Cotton Corporation of India and the Pakistan Cotton Export Corporation for the import into India of two lakh bales of cotton from Pakistan. The shipment of first consignment of one lakh bales is expected to be made during the period ending 31st May, 1975

(c) The landed prices of Pakistan cotton are about 20 to 25 per cent lower than the prices of corresponding Indian varieties. The cotton will, however, be released at prices comparable to the Indian varieties.