

(b) to (d). Decisions with regard to import and export of cotton are taken keeping in view the demand and supply position and price trend in the country. Government had decided to import a quantity of 1.00 lakh bales of medium staple cotton during the last cotton season. However, in view of the changed cotton situation in the country, it was decided to restrict the import to 75,000 bales only.

**Reduction in Prices of Cardamom  
Coconut and Coffee**

3886. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been reduction of prices of cardamom, coconut and coffee;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to promote cardamom cultivation in Kerala;

(c) whether any memorandum has been received from coconut growers over the short fall in the prices of coconut; and

(d) whether there is any move for support prices for coffee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d). Coffee prices are showing a sharply increasing trend on account of reported crop failure in Brazil. Coffee prices are regulated by the pooling mechanism for the domestic market and by the International Coffee Agreement with regard to exports.

Representations have been received regarding prices of coconut and cardamom. Prices of these commodities had touched unusually high levels in the past on account of shortages, but have now dropped to levels comparable to those prevailing earlier.

Cardamom Board is implementing a number of schemes for improving productivity of cardamom so as to reduce costs and make the crop more remunerative.

**Utilisation of Resources of Lime Stone  
Fire Clay and China Clay in Orissa**

3887. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have prepared any scheme for the proper utilisation of the resources of lime stone, fire clay and china clay available in Orissa and other States;

(b) if so, the details of these schemes; and

(c) which of those schemes are going to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

**Import of Cotton from Pakistan in  
Exchange of Wheat**

3888. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been importing cotton from Pakistan in exchange of wheat;

(b) if so, since when and the total bales of cotton imported from Pakistan so far; and

(c) the details of the agreement made with Pakistan in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Since 1981-82 cotton season, a total quantity of 1.25 lakh bales (50,000 bales in 1981-82 season and 75,000 bales in 1984-85) have been imported from Pakistan against direct payment and not in exchange of wheat.

**Promotion of Tourism in Andaman and  
Nicobar Islands**

3889. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :