

**Export of wheat to North Korea**

3426. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether North Korea proposes to import wheat from India;

(b) if so, the quantity of wheat proposed to be exported;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between North Korea and India for that purpose; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the export of wheat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) to (c). Agreements have been signed by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India for export of 1,00,000 tonnes of wheat to D. P. R. Korea.

(d) The State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. are exploring the possibilities of exporting wheat as part of special trading arrangements.

**Development camps organised by Bank of India**

3427. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bank of India has been organising development camps in different States;

(b) if so, the number of development camps organised by Bank of India in Orissa;

(c) the purpose of organising such camps; and

(d) the reasons to such camps ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Bank of

India has reported that they have been organising credit camps in various States in the country. In the State of Orissa these camps are also known as development camps. The bank has already organised one such camp on 3rd June, 1966 at Badjore village near BARIPADA in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa.

(c) and (d). Credit camps are organised by Public Sector Banks as a part of overall measures to increase the flow of credit to weaker sections and to motivate the eligible beneficiaries for taking up small productive ventures with the help of bank finance.

[Translation]

**Kailash-Mansarovar route**

3428. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by Government for increasing the facilities on Kailash-Mansarovar route since its reopening;

(b) whether he is aware that this route is still extremely difficult and inconvenient; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to make it a more convenient and easy route ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) The requisite information is being collected from various agencies and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) Although some hardship is still evident, Government is taking every feasible measure to make the Yatra as comfortable as possible.

(c) Government is taking steps to improve accommodation and other facilities for Yatris enroute. Yatris are provided with wireless, medical and security cover enroute as well as air evacuation facilities for the seriously ill.