

spot US dollar at its exchange rate for such purposes as are approved by the Central Government. In this sense, the US dollar is the intervention currency.

### **Cotton Corporation of India**

5705. SHRI M.R. JANARTHANAN KADAMBUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by the Cotton Corporation of India during the year 1992-93;

(b) the manner in which the profit is proposed to be utilised; the cotton growers; and

(c) whether there is any scheme to utilise it for the welfare of the cotton growers; and

(d) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The profit of the Corporation for the year 1992-93 has been provisionally estimated at Rs. 15 crores.

(b) The Corporation would utilise the likely profits during 1992-93 for strengthening its working capital and continuing various schemes already being implemented for welfare of cotton growers.

(c) and (d). The Corporation has been implementing following schemes for the benefit of cotton growers:

(i) *Production and distribution of quality seeds:*

The Corporation has already implemented the schemes for production and distribution of genetically pure cottonseeds for the benefit of cotton growers in state of Karnataka and Gujarat.

The Corporation has also undertaken pilot project for distribution of pesticides and insecticides on experimental basis in Punjab and Haryana.

### (iii) *Corp Surveillance Survey*

In collaboration with State Agencies, the Corporation had undertaken intensified corp surveillance survey in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

### **Recognition of Tea as Environmental Friendly Crop**

5706. SHRI YASWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Tea Board to recognise Tea as an "Environmental Friendly Crop" in order to get additional land for expansion and is to speed up the present slow rate of replantation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As very little land is available for expansion of tea cultivation in the traditional tea growing areas, Tea Board has suggested that planting of tea may be allowed in the degraded forest land available within the grant area of the existing tea estates as also in their periphery.

(c) The proposal has not been favoured because the plantation crops like tea etc. which have a commercial advantage, could be cultivated on non-forest land thereby ensuring general environmental stability and maintenance of