

export directly with Pakistan or the trade will be routed through State agencies ; and

(b) whether procedures have been simplified to encourage more trade between India and Pakistan ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Trade between India and Pakistan would be through State Trading Agencies except for 42 items in which private parties may trade directly.

(b) No, Sir.

Export of Cotton

1746. **SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received reports that prices of cotton are falling in view of good crops ;

(b) if so, the details regarding the estimated production of cotton during the current financial year ;

(c) whether Government propose to export the cotton this year also ; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the quantity and the extent of foreign exchange likely to be earned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The production of cotton during the current cotton season is estimated at about 94.00 lakh bales.

(c) and (d) Government of India have already released 10.00 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton, 52,000 bales of Bengal Deshi and 25,000 bales of Yellow pickings for export during the current cotton seasons. It is difficult to indicate the foreign exchange likely to be earned until the cotton is actually exported.

Development of Wildlife Tourism in Sunderbans

1747. **SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :** Will the Minister of

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether at a seminar held recently on the need to develop wildlife tourism, it was decided to identify and develop new areas for wildlife tourism ;

(b) if so, the follow-up action being taken ;

(c) whether the development of Sunderbans area famous for its wildlife, will also be taken into consideration ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The recommendations of the seminar are under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) A high powered multi-disciplinary committee of experts on wildlife tourism is proposed to be appointed to study all aspects of wildlife tourism and frame long-term and short-term policies. Further action will be taken on the recommendation made by this Committee. The Central Department of Tourism, however, has sanctioned Rs. 7.00 lakhs for construction of a floating accommodation at Sunderbans in the year 1984-85.

Promotion of Consumer Cooperatives

1748. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any steps for the promotion of consumer cooperatives in the country during the Sixth Five Year Plan and in the first year of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the nature thereof alongwith the number of consumer cooperatives set up during each one of the years of the Sixth Five Year Plan and the total number of these cooperatives as on 31 March, 1985 Statewise;

(c) whether it is proposed to give financial assistance for the setting up stores-cum-shops in the rural areas for these cooperatives;