

and also the increase in confidence of the ladies who are coming forward to report such incidents.

(c) Police Personnel in uniform as well as in plain clothes are deployed in markets, near girls' schools, colleges and at bus stops. Plain clothes police personnel are also deployed in running buses. Special drives are conducted with co-operation of students community and DTC.

[*Translation*]

#### Import of Rags

6353. CHOWDHRY AKHTAR HASAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for importing rags in spite of the fact that a large variety of cheap and average priced cloth are being manufactured in India ;

(b) whether Government are aware that diseases like AIDS can spread by using these imported rags ;

(c) whether Government propose to impose a ban on their import ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a), (c) and (d) Woolen/Synthetic rags are the essential raw material for the the shoddy sector of woollen industry. These are required for the manufacture of cheap varieties of warm clothings and blankets. Its import is allowed under Open General Licence only in pre-mutilated condition. There is no proposal to impose a ban on their import.

(b) There is no evidence yet that AIDS can be spread by using imported rags.

**Jahangir's Pond in Kairana (Muzaffar Nagar District) As Tourist Spot**

6354. CHOWDHRY AKHTAR HASAN : will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to develop the historical pond constructed by

Emperor Jahangir in Kairana in district Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh as a tourist spot ;

(b) if so, when ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SYED) : (a) No such proposal has been received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

#### Export of Pepper

6355. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of Pepper exported during 1986 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand for Indian pepper in the international market ; and

(c) the steps taken by Union Government to boost export of pepper ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The quantity of Pepper exported during 1986 is estimated at 49882 tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Steps taken by the Govt. to boost export of pepper include participation in fairs and exhibitions abroad, buyer-seller meets, deputation of exporters' delegation abroad, inviting buyers' delegationis publicity campaign etc.

#### Export of Cotton

6356. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the export of cotton has increased in the recent years ;

(b) the total quantity of cotton exported during 1986-87 ; and

(c) the steps taken by Union Government to further boost the export of cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Exports of cotton have been fluctuating since 1981-82 although during the year 1985-86 and in the current year, there has been considerable increase in exports.

(b) During the current year 1986-87 Government have released a quantity of 4.57 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton and 50,000 bales of Bengal Deshi for exports. Against this allotment a quantity of 2.11 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton and 36382 bales of Bengal Deshi have been registered for exports. However, a quantity of 6.37 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton and 15452 bales of Bengal Deshi were shipped during the current cotton year against the registration and quota of 1985-86.

(c) The exporting agencies study the export market ; enquiries from overseas buyers are promptly attended to and delegations visit foreign countries to strengthen the existing markets and to explore new markets. Government have also announced a long term export policy for cotton for a period of 3 years beginning with the current cotton year.

#### Frequent Renovation of Central Silk Board Office

6357. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the Central Silk Board Office in Bangalore has been renovated during the past three years :

(b) the details thereof including the broad items of renovation and expenditure incurred and justification therefor ; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to economise such expenditure ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The present premises occupied by Central Silk Board (CSB) on the II Floor of United Mansions, M.G. Road, in Bangalore, was given by Government of Karnataka free of rent in 1981. A portion of the building occupied by Government of Karnataka was returned to CSB in December, 1986 and because of inadequate ventilation, insufficient natural light and shortage of working space, certain changes in the office-layout have been undertaken in 1987. The broad items of work include demolishing of partition between Halls, providing of a computer room, Cash counter Telex room, Visitors lounge, low level wooden shelves for staff, laying of PVC flooring etc. The estimated expenditure on these items of work is Rs. 2.59 lakhs.

(c) Does not arise as no frequent renovation of CSB office, M.G. Road, Bangalore has been undertaken.

#### Women in Jails

6358. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of women in jails as on 1 January, 1987, State-wise ; and

(b) the period of their imprisonment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) and (b) Prison being a State Subject, the administration of the prisons and care of persons detained therein are the responsibility of the State Govts. The Central Govt. therefore do not maintain all data about prisons. However, available information with regard to part (a) of the question is given in the statement below.