

of tourism infrastructure of a place is undertaken in a phased manner depending upon the importance of the place, availability of funds and *inter se* priority through the combined resources of the centre, the state and the private sector. From the State Plan a sum of Rs. 9.07 lakhs is being spent on construction of staircases from two different directions of Barabar Hills near Belaganj. Tapovan Development Committee, Attari has requested the State Government for the provision of a rest house, drinking water facilities and renovation of Tapovan Hot Water Springs. The Central Government have not received any proposal from the State Government for developing tourist infrastructure at any of these places.

[English]

Fall in cotton consumption and its price due to new textile policy

865. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment to know the extent to which the cotton consumption has been reduced and its prices fallen with the new textile policy giving boost to the production of polyester and blended fabrics;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government to protect the textile industry and the cotton growers in the country from the adverse impact as a result of the new textile policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). The consumption of cotton during the last cotton season (Sep. 84-Aug. 85) was estimated at 91.15 lakh bales and the consumption of cotton during the current cotton season (Sep. 85-August 86) is estimated at 91.65 lakh bales. The downward movement of the prices of cotton during the current cotton season has been due to the excellent cotton crop during the last cotton season and the prospects of the satisfactory cotton crop during the current year.

(c) The new Textile Policy envisages that the pre-eminent role of cotton as the main raw material of textile industry would be maintained. Utilisation of indigenous cotton would be ensured by domestic consumption and by export of cotton yarn and other manufactures. Cotton growers shall always be assured off-take of their produce at remunerative prices. Cotton needed by the textile industry would be made available in adequate quantity and at reasonable prices. The Government of India with a view to protecting the interests of the cotton growers have announced export of 10.00 lakh bales of long and extra long cotton, 57,000 bales of Bengal Deshi and 25,000 bales of yellow pickings during the current cotton season. Minimum support prices for procurement of kapas during the current cotton season have been announced by the Government and the Cotton Corporation of India have been authorised to make purchases at the support prices where-ever the market prices fall below the support prices. Government have also announced a liberalised long term export policy for yarn.

Production of more sugar to overcome sugar scarcity

866. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of sugarcane crushed and sugar produced in the current season as on 15 February, 1986 and the corresponding figures as on 15 February, 1985; and

(b) the steps Government have taken to encourage production of more sugarcane to overcome sugar scarcity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) On the basis of telegraphic information received from the sugar factories, the provisional figure of sugar production upto 15th February in the current sugar year 1985-86 has worked out at 41.82 lakh tonnes as against the actual sugar production of 36.80 lakh tonnes upto the same date in 1984-85 season. As regards the sugar cane crushed, the information so far furnished by the factories is upto 31.1.1986. The provisional figure of sugar-

cane crushed upto 31st January in 1985-86 season has worked out at 34.5 million tonnes as against 30.7 million tonnes of actual cane crushed upto the same date in 1984-85 season.

(b) To encourage production of sugarcane, the payment of remunerative cane prices by the sugar factories to the cane growers has been ensured. Besides, the Government of India is supporting the measures of the State Governments to provide incentives to the farmers to boost sugarcane production. The Cooperative structures in the States have organised provisions of credit and inputs to sugarcane farmers. Many State Governments also provide incentives and assistance like subsidies for irrigation, provision of link roads in reserved areas of sugarcane factories, training of farmers, protection against pests and diseases etc. Loans for sugarcane development from the Sugar Development Fund will be provided on soft terms to sugar undertakings.

Nationalisation of closed textile mills in Ahmedabad

867. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether about 20 textiles mills in Ahmedabad are closed for a long time;

(b) whether the workers of these closed textile mills are rendered unemployment since long;

(c) whether Government propose to nationalise these closed textile units of Ahmedabad;

(d) if so, when a decision is likely to be announced in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (b). As on 31.12.1985, 16 textile mills in Ahmedabad were lying closed affecting the employment of around 30,000 workers.

(c) The Government of Gujarat have already nationalised 12 of these mills.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Purchase of cotton by cotton corporation of India in Gujarat

868. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the instructions issued to Cotton Corporation of India for the purchase of cotton in Gujarat indicating the date of such instructions;

(b) the target fixed for the procurement of cotton this year and whether the procurement is going on in accordance with this target; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to remove the complaint in certain parts that the traders sell their cotton to the Corporation posing as farmers and cotton is not being purchased from farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM DHAN) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

Statement

A study team consisting of the representatives of the Central Government, Cotton Corporation of India and Government of Gujarat visited for 10th to 25th January, 1986 various cotton growing areas of Gujarat from making an on the spot study of the arrangements made for purchase of Kapas in Gujarat and other related matters. In the light of Study Team's recommendations, instructions were given to Gujarat and Sawrashtra Branch Office of the CCI on 21.1.86. The gist of such instructions is as under :

(i) Norms for purchase of Kapas pooled by Agricultural Marketing Societies of the growers at support prices with usual quality deductions.