

(SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN):

(a) The final All India estimate of cotton production for the year 1980-81 has not yet become available. However, according to Ministry of Agriculture the production of cotton for the last three cotton years ending 1979-80 is as under.

Production in '000 bales of 170 Kgs. each.

Cotton year	Production
1977-78	7243.4
1978-79	7957.8
1979-80	7697.6

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Iron ore reserves in Bihar-Orissa Sector

3273. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recent investigation has been carried by the Geological Survey of India to discover the iron ore reserves in the Bihar-Orissa sector;

(b) whether any such investigation has been carried by the Geological Survey of India to discover the iron ore reserves in the Banpani-Barbil sectors and other parts of Keonjhar district in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the details about their survey and the expected quantities of various grades of iron ore reserves there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). The Geological Survey of India has carried out investigations in the Singhbhum district of Bihar and Keonjhar district of Orissa, including Banpani-Barbil sectors, to assess, among other things, the iron ore reserves in these areas.

As a result of these investigations Geological Survey of India has estimated reserves of over 376 million tonnes of iron ore in Thakurani, Jhilling Langtola and Bahspani areas having an average iron content of 64.5 per cent.

Surfing Centre at Chilika Lake of Orissa

3274. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that President of the Gulmarg Surfing Centre in Jammu and Kashmir during his recent visit to Chilika in Orissa has recommended the lake as most suited for water sport;

(b) if so, whether the proposal to open a surfing centre at Chilika Lake of Orissa is under the consideration of Government;

(c) the amount proposed to be allocated to Orissa for opening a surfing centre at Chilika;

(d) whether such proposal is going to be implemented during the current financial year; and

(e) the progress made so far in implementing the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) The Department of Tourism is not aware of the visit of the President of the Gulmarg Surfing Centre in Jammu & Kashmir to Chilika Lake in Orissa. However, the Principal of the Indian Institute of Skiing & Mountaineering set up by the Central Department of Tourism at Gulmarg visited Chilika in Orissa to explore the possibility of introducing water skiing in the lake.

(b) and (c). The detailed proposals are still awaited. However, it is understood that unless certain preliminary measures are taken by the State Government to de-weed the area in the lake earmarked for water

skiing, and to demarcate this area with netting to prevent jelly fish and other types of fish coming into this area, it would not be possible to undertake water skiing in Chilika Lake. Hence no funds have so far been earmarked in the Central Sector for introducing water skiing in Chilika lake.

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

Audit Checks of Office of Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports

3275. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a check in audit has shown—

(i) that the office of the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports has made over-payments in the form of cash compensatory support to exporters during the period 1977—80;

(ii) defaults on the part of exporters;

(b) if so, (i) what is the amount of over-payments so made to the exporters; and

(ii) the details of the defaults committed by the exporters; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to check their recurrence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) (i) and (ii). Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The total amount of over-payments mentioned in the Audit Reports of the Offices of Joint Chief Controllers of Imports and Exports at New Delhi and Bombay amounted to Rs. 150.29 lakhs. Besides, mention was made of payments of Rs. 41.04 lakhs made to exporters which were held under objection audit for want of clarification by the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay.

(ii) Defaults committed by the Exporters broadly fall under the following categories;

(a) Erasing and overwriting of entries in Export Documents.

(b) Incorrect application of cash assistance rates and arithmetical errors in claims.

(c) Misclassification of export products under categories eligible for higher rates of cash assistance.

(d) Claims not supported by requisite export documents.

(e) Failure of exporters to fulfil their export obligations.

(f) Cash assistance having been paid on exports below the floor prices fixed.

(c) Proposals for strengthening the internal check units in the cash assistance disbursing offices under CCI&E and creation of an independent internal audit wing in the Ministry of Commerce are under active consideration of the Government. Cases where the exporters have tampered with the export documents are investigated and suitable action is taken.

रुपये की क्रय शक्ति में गिरावट

3276. श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हाल में रुपये की क्रय शक्ति में और गिरावट आयी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस समय रुपये की क्रय शक्ति क्या है ;

(ग) क्रय शक्ति में कमी होने के क्या कारण हैं ; और