

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the facilities provided to the pilgrims and on the maintenance of temple?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) According to the information available from the State Government, total number of pilgrims who visited Vaishnodevi during the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 was as follows:-

Year	Tourist Arrivals
1995	40,32,127
1996	43,35,532
1997	44,34,233

(b) and (c) The temple offerings are collected by the Shrine Board which provide facilities to the pilgrims and maintain the temple. The details of income and expenditure of the Shrine Board are not available with the Ministry of Tourism.

[Translation]

Licences to Sugar Mills during Ninth Plan

2093. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI ADITYANATH :
SHIR CHINMAYANAND SWAMI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the targetted number of licences to be issued to cooperative sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh during Ninth Five Year Plan, Year-wise;

(b) the number of sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh which were issued licences during the Eighth Five Year Plan; Year-wise; and

(c) the number of licences proposed to be issued during the year 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No targets are fixed for issue of licences. Accordingly no targets have been fixed for issue of licences to co-operative sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. Sugar industry has also been exempt from licensing vide Press Note Number 12 dated 31.8.98.

(b) A year-wise break up of letters of intent issued for UP during the Eighth Five Year Plan is as follows:

Year	No. of Letters of Intent
1992-93	2
1993-94	31
1994-95	7
1995-96	9
1996-97	56

(c) During 1998-99 (from April to August 1998) 4 Letters of Intent were issued to set up sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh.

Since September 1998, the entrepreneurs are free to set up sugar units by filling Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum.

[English]

Smuggling of Drugs

2094. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "China se Bharat men nashile padarthon ki taskari" appearing in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated September 30, 1998;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the names of the countries through which this smuggling is being done; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to prevent this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE)(SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are no report on narcotic drugs sourced from China getting diverted to India via other countries. However, drug trafficking from Myanmar in small quantities for local consumption particularly in North Eastern States has come to the notice of the Government.

(d) A comprehensive bilateral agreement has been entered into by the Govt. of India with the Govt. of Myanmar for reducing demand and for preventing illicit traffic in narcotic drugs. Constant vigil is maintained by all the enforcement agencies empowered under the N.D.P.S. Act. A periodical review of such enforcement activities is undertaken by the Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau in meetings wherein representatives from all North Eastern States are included for exchange of information and intelligence. BSF and Coast Guards have been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs.

Cash Crops

2095. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposed to formulate any scheme to encourage the growing of Cash Crops in various States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Some of the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to encourage production of cash crops inter-alia include production and distribution of quality planting material,