

(d) The amount of financial assistance provided so far to these centres which have been developed as tourist places is:

- (a) Jwalamukhi Rs.49.43 lakhs
(b) Paunta Sahib Rs.27.11 lakhs

Import of Food Items

2276. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the food items, fruits and vegetables which have been imported during each of the last two years, and

(b) the foreign exchange spent on their import?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEDGDE) (a) and (b) The desired information in respect of food items, fruits and vegetables imported during 1996-97 and 1997-98 is as under:-

Food items*	Value Rs. Lakhs c.i.f. value of import	
	1996-97	1997-98
Wheat	40375.93	97096.26
Rice	1.87	7.28
Other Cereal	49.59	37.31
Pulses	89033.76	83363.51
Vegetables		
(ITC(HS)-0701 to 0709)	140.59	372.38 (upto Nov.97)
Fruits (excluding dry dates)		
(ITC(HS)-0804 to 0810)	2293.69	483.44 (upto Nov.97)

*Value for food items are provisional

Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta.

[English]

Development of Tourist Spots in Orissa

2277. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN :
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI JUAL ORAM :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals/projects submitted by Orissa Government for financial assistance for development of tourist spots, project-wise during the next year;

(b) whether the Government have drawn up any programme to develop the Buddhist religious places to attract Buddhist Tourists;

(c) if so, the details of places identified for the purpose;

(d) whether some of those tourist places of Buddhist interest are located in Orissa; and

(e) if so, the details of the programmes prepared to develop those places?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) Prioritisation of tourism projects are finalised in consultation with the State Governments on year to year basis. No prioritisation of projects is approved in advance for the next financial year.

(b) to (e) Development of tourism is a continuing process and is primarily undertaken by the State Governments. However, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India provides financial assistance for development of tourism infrastructure based on specific project proposals received from the State Governments and the availability of funds. The Union Ministry of Tourism have sanctioned the following projects for Buddhist religious places of Orissa:-

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)
	1995-96	
1.	Amenities Centre at Dhauli	20.26
	1996-97	
1.	Refurbishment of monuments at Lalitgiri	25.00
2.	Refurbishment of monuments at Udaigiri	20.00
3.	Refurbishment of monument at Ratnagiri	31.00
	1997-98	
4.	Tourist Reception Centre, Ratnagiri	75.00
5.	Tourist Reception Centre, Lalitgiri	25.00
6.	Tourist Reception Centre, Udaigiri	25.00

Loss due to Fire

2278. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of coal destroyed due to fire annually on an average in the Mines of different coal fields of the country;

(b) the estimated loss per annum in rupee terms due to such fire;

(c) the total quantum of coal blocked and caved in Jharia due to fire;

(d) whether there have been increased in the incident of fire in recent years;