

Coffee Board is also implementing a "Project for consolidation and Expansion of Coffee by Tribal and Small Growers" during the Ninth Plan Period in the State of Orissa.

#### Import of Gold

3374. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per World Gold Council's report due to the sanctions imposed by some countries on India, the demand at gold has dropped;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total gold imported during the third quarter of 1998 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The World Gold Council has mentioned a number of reasons for decline in the demand for gold during the third quarter of 1998. While it is true that the import of gold during the third quarter of 1998 is comparatively less as compared to the first two quarters, the over all imports, during the first three quarters of 1998 are much higher as compared to the corresponding period of 1997.

(b) Comparative figures of Gold imported under different schemes during the first three quarters of 1997 and 1998 are as follows:

#### *Import of gold scheme-wise for the year 1997 and 1998*

Qty. in tonnes.

	1997				1998			
	N.R.I.	SIL	OGL	Total	NRI	SIL	OGL	Total
1st Qtr.	94.032	9.96	—	93.992	55.103	.577	156.24	211.92
2nd Qtr.	99.83	16.453	—	116.282	25.176	.028	122.336	147.541
3rd Qtr.	106.42	24,522	—	130.941	7.13	.331	101.046	108.507

(c) The total import of gold during the third quarter of 1998 was 108.507 M.T.

#### Target Fixed for Tax Collections

3375. SHRI E. AHAMED:  
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:  
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced some new schemes for the benefit of income tax payee during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of new I.T. payee registered;

(c) whether the Government have achieved the target fixed for collection of Income Tax and other taxes during 1998-99, till date;

(d) if so, the amount collected from each category of income tax and other tax payee, separately during the above period;

(e) the extent to which these figures have increased/declined as compared to the same period of 1997-98; and

(f) the other steps being taken by the Government to achieve the fixed target?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998 introduced One-by-Six Scheme with a view to widening the tax base. Under this scheme, the obligation to file the return is on fulfilling any one of the six prescribed economic criteria if the person is not already filing return. This is the extended and expanded version of the earlier provision where the obligation to file the return of income was on fulfilling any two of the four economic criteria. The Scheme is now applicable to 35 notified cities. The scheme is aimed at adding new assesseees. The number of returns filed under the scheme is not separately maintained. However, 21.02 lakh new assesseees have been added in the current year till October, 1998 which also includes returns filed under the Scheme.

The "Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme" has also been introduced during 1998-99 for the benefit of income tax payers with the objective of settlement of disputes and collection of arrears. It does not have the objective of registering the new income-tax payers.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The collection made so far in respect of Corporation Tax, Income Tax and Interest Tax in aggregate is generally as per the target.

(f) Apart from normal statutory process of recovery, the Department is constantly monitoring the progress in Dossier cases involving high demands. A Task Force has been constituted to strictly monitor revenue collection. Computerisation of TDS Wing and Arrear Demand Registers will also boost up collection in respect of smaller demands.

#### **Indo-US MoU on Essential Commodities and Technologies**

3376. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:  
SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent talks with the US team in New Delhi, India had asked the US for the proper implementation of 1984 Indo-US Memorandum of Understanding on essential commodities and technologies; and

(b) if so, the details of commodities sought to be imported under the Memorandum of Understanding in

question, indicating the details of the MoU forming the basis of transfer of the commodities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) There is no Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on essential commodities between India and the US, and the question of import of these commodities under such an MoU does not arise.

However, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America on the Export from the United States of America to India of sensitive Commodities, Technologies and Technical Data was signed in 1984. This MoU was not an Agenda item for discussion during the meeting held in November, 1998 between the Indian and the US delegations on the subject of export controls.

*[Translation]*

#### **Schemes for Development of Tourism**

3377. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new schemes launched for promotion of tourism in the country during the last six months;

(b) the places of tourist attraction where these schemes are being implemented; and

(c) the incentives provided to the domestic and foreign tourist during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) To promote Pilgrim Tourism, Buddha Mahotsav was organised by the Ministry of Tourism in the State of UP and Bihar in October/November, 1998. It has also been proposed to observe the year April 99—March 2000 as the Visit India Year. As a part of the India Tourism Week celebrations from 19th to 25th January, 1999, a Tourism Expo is also being organised on a large scale.

(b) The Ministry of Tourism has provided Central financial assistance for the following centres:

1. Sound and Light Show at Anandpur Sahib, Punjab.
2. Illumination in four Gurudwaras in Anandpur Sahib, Punjab.