

1	2	3
17	Tripura	1. Agartala (01)
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1. Allahabad (02) 2. Lucknow (05) 3. Agra (01) 4. Ghaziabad (01) 5. Noida (01) 6. Haridwar (01) 7. Dehradun (01) 8. Faizabad (01)
19.	West Bengal	1. 24 Parganas (01) 2. Calcutta (08) 3. Midnapur (01) 4. Hooghly (01)

[*Translation*]

#### **Production of Cotton**

1117. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton crop for the new season with effect from October, 1997 to September, 1998 is likely to be similar to that of the current season;

(b) if so, the extent to which the cotton production during 1996-97 has been more in comparison to the previous year;

(c) whether the majority of the cotton growing States have received good rains but sowing operation have been delayed in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor and the extent to which it will affect the cotton production in these States;

(e) whether the cotton purchases have declined drastically as most of the spinning mills have proposed their immediate requirement; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to help the cotton growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d) It is too early to assess the cotton production prospects for the year 1997-98. As per the information received so far, 69% of the normal area under cotton has been covered and the sowing of crop is still in progress in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Tamilnadu. The condition of the standing crop is reported to be satisfactory.

The production of cotton during 1995-97 is estimated to be 145.3 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each which is higher by 14.4 lakh bales than its production of 130.9 lakh bales achieved in the previous year, i.e. 1995-96.

(e) and (f) The purchases by the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) as on 16.7.1997 was 11.0 lakh bales as compared to 10.1 lakh bales during the corresponding period last year. The Government has released a quota of 13.42 lakh bales of cotton for export during 1996-97. The aggressive purchases by the CCI gives support to cotton growers. The ceiling for export of cotton yarn of below 41s counts has been increased from 80 Mkg to 140 Mkg in 1997. Cotton has been removed from Selective credit control from October, 1996. Stock limits on cotton have been removed from February, 1995. Also, the Government is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme—Intensive Cotton Development Programme in 11 major cotton growing States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu & Uttar Pradesh.

[*English*]

#### **Expenditure on S.P.G.**

1118. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :  
SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a provision of more than 75 crore rupees has been made in this year's Union Budget for the Special Protection Group;

(b) if so, whether the amount spent on the security of very important persons belongs to general public/people's representatives have the right whereas the VVIPs include such people also who are no more representatives or even not related to their families; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the misuse of public money on such VIPs who are not people's representatives?