

Yatra and partial costs of creation of infrastructure, logistics and facilities on the Indian side. Government also bears expenses for aerial evacuation of pilgrims in case of emergencies. A Liaison Officer at Government cost is attached with each batch of the yatris.

#### **Sikh/Sehejdhari and Hindu Jathas**

The Government extends all required assistance, obtains approval of the Government of Pakistan for the visit of each Jatha; coordinates with various State Governments/Ministries/Authorities and forwards the lists of intending pilgrims to the Pakistan High Commission, New Delhi for visas; arranges with the Ministry of Railways special train services for the pilgrims both for onward/return journey; expedites release of foreign exchange from Reserve Bank of India as a special case in view of the fact that permission for Jathas is given at short notice and visas are stamped on the pilgrims' passports which is one or two days prior to the departure of the Jathas; attaches a Liaison Officer from the High Commission of India in Islamabad to render assistance to the visiting pilgrims when they contact for any kind of help etc. No direct financial assistance is provided to the Sikh/Sehejdhari and Hindu Jathas visiting Pakistan.

The number of pilgrims likely to visit these places during 1999 is about 1 lakh Haj pilgrims, approximately 600 Kailash Mansarovar Yatris, and about 5200 pilgrims of Sikh/Sehejdhari and Hindu Jathas to Pakistan.

*[Translation]*

#### **Food Processing Industry in Uttar Pradesh**

4108. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for encouraging the setting up of Food Processing Industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Food Processing Industries which have been provided assistance by the Union Government during the last three Years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) For

promotion of food processing industries in the country. Various policy measures have been provided by the Government. Besides, under the Plan Schemes of the Ministry, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to cooperatives, Non-Government Organisations, Public sector Undertakings, Private Sector Industries, Research Institutions etc. For promotion of the processed food sector. These schemes are project specific and not state specific. Details of measures taken by the Government in this direction are in the attached Statement.

(c) 300 units of food processing industries in Uttar Pradesh have been provided financial assistance during the last 3 years under the Plan Schemes of this Ministry.

#### **Statement**

##### *Details of Measures Taken by the Government*

- (i) Declaration of most food processing industries as high priority.
- (ii) Delicensing all food processing industries except brewing and distillation of alcoholic beverages and those items reserved for small scale sector.
- (iii) Promoting domestic/foreign/NRI investment.
- (iv) Providing fiscal reliefs by reducing or eliminating excise duties in many food products.
- (v) Providing duty relief in excise and customs for food processing industries.
- (vi) Networking with State Governments and assisting Nodal Agencies identified by the State Governments through Plan Schemes
- (vii) Propagation of the concept of backward linkages.
- (viii) Extension of assistance for promotion of post-harvest infrastructure, cold chain etc.
- (ix) Extending assistance for establishment of Food Processing and Training Centres for propagating technology for developing entrepreneurship in the rural areas. Assistance extended so far covers 245 such centres.

- (x) Public and private sectors are viewed as complementary for all round planned development. Increasing emphasis is being placed on individual effort and private initiatives.
- (ix) Operating various plan schemes for promoting food processing industries.

[English]

#### **Aid for Cashewnut**

4109. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought financial assistance/aid from the Union Government for replanting/productivity improvement on cashewnut in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) During November, 1997 the Government of Kerala submitted a project proposal seeking Central Assistance of Rs. 107.10 crores for Replanting and Productivity Improvement of Cashew in Kerala. The project included the components of area expansion, replanting and rejuvenation of old and senile orchards, production and distribution of hybrid varieties of cashew clones, establishment of model gardens, better management of young plantations, training and propaganda, to be implemented in a period of five years during the Ninth Five year Plan.

Most of the components included in the project proposal submitted by the Government of Kerala like area expansion. Replanting/rejuvenation, production and distribution of hybrid varieties through regional nurseries, establishment of model clonal garden and training of farmers are being covered under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Integrated Development of Cashew'. A sum of Rs. 119.9 lakhs was relased to the Government of Kerala during 1997-98. During 1998-99 an allocation of Rs. 92.02 lakhs has been provided for Kerala state. The other components are not covered under the scheme.

#### **Training to Terrorists**

4110. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangla Desh, Bhutan and Nepal have been giving shelter and patronage to terrorist activities in North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken to persuade these countries for stopping such activities;

(d) whether the Government of India have taken up this matter with these countries at a diplomatic level; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal have confirmed that they will not permit their territory to be misused against Indian interests.

(c) to (e) Government of India have held discussions with the Governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal on matters relating to the possibility of terrorists misusing their soil for activities against India. All three countries have agreed to work with India to counter terrorism and have stated that they would not permit their respective territories to be used for any activities targeted against the other.

#### **Software Technology Parks**

4111. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Software Technology Parks (STP) set-up in the country so far;

(b) the details thereof, locationwise;

(c) whether the Government propose to set-up new STPs during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?