

days to demonstrate the guaranteed production from these four projects. The value of these four contracts is as under :

Name of the contracts	Value in US\$ Million
1. Balrampur	7.271
2. Rajendra	3.369
3. New Kumda	7.271
4. Churcha West	9.754

85% of the above contract amounts are covered by Chinese credit.

(d) In the 4th Indo-China Working Group Meeting held in November, 1997 the Chinese side have proposed help in following areas :

1. Development of greenfield projects.
2. Briquetting of Indian Coal.
3. Co-manufacture of PSLW equipment spares, and
4. Co-manufacture of electric side discharge loader.

Hotel Industry

3588. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an adverse effect in the Hotel Industry after the Pokharan tests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the corporate delegations scheduled to visit India and had booked hotels in the country, have cancelled the visit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) There has been a limited effect on the hotel industry during the month of May and June which can be attributed to several factors like the World Cup - SOCCER, sanctions etc.

(c) and (d) A few cancellations have been reported by the hotels of the business delegations from countries like USA, Australia, Belgium and Germany. Also business visits from the World Bank and ADB have been reduced. The occupancy levels in the business segment in the major cities is lower than last year through-out the six month period.

(e) The Ministry of Tourism is of the opinion that this is a temporary phenomenon, and have been reassuring potential visitors through its marketing offices about the

stable business and political environment in the country, both in the business and leisure segments.

New Funding Pattern of Growth Centres

3589. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of implementation of setting up of Growth Centre proposed at Mendipathar (Meghalaya) and the quantum of funds released for the purpose so far:

(b) whether under the new funding pattern based on the Prime Minister's new initiatives, the Growth Centres in the North-East region would receive the entire expenditure as Central assistance subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15 crores: and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to release the balance funds at enhanced rate for early implementation of the Mendipathar Growth Centre?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) The Growth Centre at Mendipathar in Meghalaya was approved by the Government in October, 1997. The first instalment of Rs. 50 lakhs has also been released on approval.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Released of funds is made depending upon the progress achieved by the State Government/its implementing agency in implementation of the growth centre.

Support Price of Cotton

3590. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of times the support price of cotton has been increased during the last three years along-with the price increased each time; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to check the rise in market price of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) The Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for the basic varieties of cotton viz. F414/H777 and H-4 are announced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. The table below indicates the MSPs announced over the last three years :

(Rs. per quintal)		
Year	Basic Variety	MSP announced
1995-96	F414/H777	1115.00
	H4	1350.00
1996-97	F414/H777	1180.00
	H4	1380.00
1997-98	F414/H777	1330.00
	H4	1530.00