

(e) and (f) There is one spun silk mill, and 4 spun silk mills located in Assam and Karnataka respectively based on Japanese technology. As per available information one mill in the private sector, M/s. Raheem Spun Silk Mills located in Karnataka is earning profits.

[English]

Tourism in Sikkim

2696. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tourists who visited Sikkim during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount spent on the development of tourism in Sikkim during the last three years, year-wise, project-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have drawn up an Integrated Tourism Development Plan for Sikkim; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) According to the statistics available from the Government of Sikkim, total number of tourists who visited Sikkim during the years 1995, 1996 and 1997 are as follows:

Year	Tourist Arrival
1995	104421
1996	100801
1997	122821

(b) The details of the amount sanctioned and released for various projects/schemes by the Union Ministry of Tourism to the Government of Sikkim for the development of tourism during the last three years are as follows :

S.No.	Name of the Project/ Scheme	(Rs. in lakhs)	
		Amount Sanctioned	Amount released
1	2	3	4
<i>During 1995-96</i>			
1.	Wayside amenities at Labrang	7.70	3.75
2.	Refurbishment of Lachung Monastery	6.19	4.10
3.	Flower Festival 1995	5.00	4.00
4.	Production of Film	10.72	5.36
Total		29.61	17.21

During 1996-97

1. Phensong Monastery (Refurbishment) 30.00 4.00

1	2	3	4
2.	Phodong Monastery (Refurbishment)	30.00	4.00
3.	Publicity material	1.10	0.55
4.	Flower Show Festival	2.00	1.00
5.	Construction of Tourist Lodge at Chungthang (North Sikkim)	29.99	9.00
Total		93.09	18.55

During 1997-98

1.	Wayside amenities at Toong	2.70	0.32
2.	Tourist Information Centre at Namchi	10.00	5.00
3.	Wayside amenities/public convenience at Deorali Chorten Sikkim	3.50	1.05
4.	Tourist Information Centre at Gayzing	10.00	3.00
5.	Tourist Information Centre Gangtok	10.00	2.68
6.	Refurbishment of Pamayantse Monastery	10.00	3.00
7.	Refurbishment of Tashiding Monastery	10.00	3.00
8.	Flower Festival	2.00	1.00
9.	Handicrafts Exhibition	4.00	4.00
Total		62.20	23.05

(c) and (d) The State Government has prepared a Master Plan for the development of tourism in the State. The Union Ministry of Tourism provide financial assistance to State Governments on the basis of specific proposal received from them as per guidelines.

[Translation]

Pending Trade Disputes with WTO

2697. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD) : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of trade disputes of India with other countries are lying pending with the Dispute Settlement Body of World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the negotiations held in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the decision of the settlement body in favour of our country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A detailed statement of disputes of India lying pending in the Dispute Settlement Body of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is attached. These

disputes are of legal nature and appropriate legal measures are being taken to safeguard the interests of our country.

Statement

Status of disputes in the WTO in which India is associated either as a complainant or as a respondent

Sl.No.	Complainant	Subject of Complaint	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	India	Turkey: Restrictions on imports of textiles and clothing products	India requested consultations with Turkey on 21 March 1996. Consultations were scheduled to be held in April 1996, but could not be held as Turkey refused to hold consultations bilaterally without the presence of representatives of the European Commission. When mandatory period for consultations was over and when PMI Geneva was advised to seek the formation of a panel the request for a panel by India was considered by the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) at its meeting on 13 March, 1998 when a panel was established India's first submission to the DSB is to be made before 31 July, 1998.
2.	Malaysia, Thailand, Pakistan, India	United States : Import prohibition of shrimp and shrimp products.	Consultations had been requested on 8 October, 1996 on this issue and since a mutually acceptable solution could not be reached at the request of Malaysia, Thailand, Pakistan and India a panel was established. The Panel has completed its headings and has submitted a Report, which has to be adopted now by the Dispute Settlement Body after circulation to all Members of the WTO.
3.	European Communities	India: Patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products	The European Communities requested consultations on 28 April 1997. However, since the consultations did not result in a mutually agreed solution, on 3 October 1997, the EC requested the formation of a panel, and this request was considered in the meeting of the DSB held on 16 October 1997, when India blocked the formation of the Panel. At its next request, in accordance with the DSU provisions, the panel was formed automatically. EC has alleged that India has not complied with Article 70.8 and Article 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement. The EC submitted their first submission to the DSB in the WTO on 12th February, 1998. India submitted its counter submission on 5th March, 1998 and first substantive meeting was held on 24th March, 1998. Second submission by India and the EC were made on 16th April, 1998 and second substantive meeting was held on 29th April, 1998.
4.	United States	India : Quantitative restrictions on imports of agricultural, textile and industrial products.	United States requested consultations on 15 July 1997. Consultations were held on 17 September 1997. On 6 October 1997, United States requested for formation of a panel. However, in view of the ongoing promising consultations, a panel was not formed at the meeting of the DSB held on 16 October 1997. At the next meeting of the DSB held on 18 November 1997, at the request of the United States, a panel was formed automatically. The US made its first submission to the

1	2	3	4
			DSB on 31st March, 1998 and India made its counter submission on 1st May, 1998. The first substantive meeting was held on 7th and 8th May, 1998. Second submissions have been made by India and USA on 5th June, 1998 and the second substantive meeting has been held on 22nd and 23rd June, 1998.
5.	European Communities	India: Restrictions on export of products including raw hides and skins.	The European Communities requested consultations on 19 November 1997, pursuant to Article XXIII.1 of the GATT and Article 4 of the DSU with regard to the provision of the Exim Policy (1997-2002), which sets up a negative list for the export of several commodities, in particular raw hides and skins, the export of which require an export licence granted by the DGFT. The EC has alleged that licences for these products however are systematically refused and that there is no evidence that such restrictions are temporary nor that they have the objective of relieving a critical shortage of products essential to the exports of India. The EC has, therefore, contended that this practice violates the obligation of India under GATT 1994 and in particular though not necessarily exclusively, the provision of Article XI of GATT 1994. A first round of consultation was held in January, 98.
6.	India	European Communities: Application of Cumulative Recovery System (CRS) for India's exports of rice.	India requested for consultations with the European Communities pursuant to Article 19 of the Agreement on Impelmentation of Article VII of the GATT, 1994, Article 6 of the Agreement on Import Licensing Procedures, Article 19 of the Agreement on Agriculture, Article 14 of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (IBT) and Article 11 of the Agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, concerning the applications of the Cumulative Recovery System (CRS) introduced by Commission Regulation No. 703/97 of the 18 April, Consultations were held recently in Geneva on 23rd June, 1998.

*[English]**[Translation]***Autonomy to Banks**

2698. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India actively considering for granting greater autonomy and more flexibility to the banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and other changes proposed by RBI for efficient working of banks; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented and to what extent the greater autonomy to banks is likely to help in the working of banks and also checking the frauds that are increasing in the banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and the same will be laid on the Table of the House.

Memorandum by Opium Growers

2699. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the opium growers of Mandsaur District of Madhya Pradesh have submitted any memorandum to the Union Government regarding their problems; and

(b) If so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Yes.

(b) the grievances stated by the opium growers would be kept in view while formulating the Opium Policy for the crop year 1998-99.