

*[English]***Cotton Procurement Schemes**

1140. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought two years extension from the Centre to its monopoly cotton procurement scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereto;

(d) if not, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ;

(e) the steps being taken to improve effective implementation of the scheme cutting down substantially losses, heavy administrative overheads/expense ; and

(f) the details of complaints received on serious financial irregularities/manipulations/fraudulent deals reportedly committed under the cotton monopoly procurement scheme and the action taken by the Union Government on the reported irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) The Ministry of Textiles has received a request from the State Government of Maharashtra for extension of the Maharashtra Monopoly Scheme for a further period beyond 30.6.1998. The request of the State Government is under consideration.

Stolen Passports

1141. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several hundred passports have been stolen from the Indian Embassy in Madrid for probable sale to illegal immigrants;

(b) if so, the total number of passports stolen;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter for fixing up the responsibility; and

(d) the outcome there of and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) A total of 189 passports were found stolen following a forced entry into and burglary of the Chancery premises of the Embassy of India in Madrid on March 23, 1998.

(b) 189 passports were found stolen of which the nationality wise break-up is: Indian -4; Spanish-178; US & Swiss-2 each; British, French & German - One each.

(c) and (d) The Spanish police authorities are conducting an investigation. Physical security arrangements at the Indian Embassy have also been strengthened.

Economic Development of North-Eastern Region

1142. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the economic development of the North-Eastern Region;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to bring the North-East-Council under the aegis of the Planning Commission for an integrated development of the region;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) The economic development of North East Region as measured by the growth rate of per capita State Domestic Product over the year of 1984-85 as per latest available information for different States is given in the attached Statement.

(b) to (d) A decision 'in principle' has been taken by the Government to restructure the North East Council and bring it under the administrative jurisdiction of the Planning Commission. Necessary action to give effect to these decisions has been initiated.

Statement

Growth rate of per capita state domestic product for North Eastern States (In percentage per annum)

Sl.No.	States	Growth rate
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.73 (for 1984-85 to 1994-95)
2.	Assam	1.74 (for 1984-85 to 1994-95)
3.	Manipur	2.39 (for 1984-85 to 1993-94)
4.	Meghalaya	2.85 (for 1984-85 to 1994-95)
5.	Mizoram *	
6.	Nagaland	2.88 (for 1984 -85 to 1993-94)
7.	Tripura	3.93 (for 1984-85 to 1992-93)

* The State of Mizoram prepares these estimates at current prices only and hence they are not comparable.