

1	2
1994-95	231.05
1995-96	79.00
1996-97	116.28

(h) The Government of Kerala have initiated a project for preparing a comprehensive tourism master plan for Kerala for optimal utilisation of the tourism potential of Kerala.

Coffee Plantation in Andhra Pradesh

1596. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a shortage of coffee in the country;

(b) the fresh initiative proposed to increase coffee plantations in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether the Coffee Board has identified some suitable areas in Andhra Pradesh for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Coffee Board has already identified suitable areas for coffee cultivation in Andhra Pradesh and around 10,000 ha. of area has been brought under coffee till date. The Board has set up necessary infrastructure to support research, extension and developmental activities for coffee in Andhra Pradesh.

2. The Coffee Board will be supporting a special package scheme to expand coffee cultivation in 3000 ha. of area in Andhra Pradesh during the Ninth Plan by providing a one time grant of Rs. 15,000 per ha. to the prospective tribal coffee growers. Further, for stepping up productivity in the tribal coffee sector, the Board will also be extending the same amount of one time grant for rejuvenation/consolidation of coffee areas to the tune of 3,000 ha. during the Ninth Plan.

Janata Cloth Scheme

1597. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to discontinue to Janata Cloth Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such decision;

(c) whether any other alternative scheme is proposed to be introduced to provide cloth to the people below the poverty line at reasonable prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) A Committee constituted in the year 1991, to review the Janata Cloth Scheme observed that it has contributed to the de-skilling of the weavers by producing cloth of low unit value and therefore, recommended for phasing out of the scheme. The Government after examining the recommendations of this Committee, introduced Package-II under Janata Cloth Scheme in the year 1993-94 with the objective of enabling handloom weavers to graduate to production of higher value textile goods and to provide alternate employment to handloom weavers displaced on account of phasing out of Janata Cloth Scheme and also decided to phase out the scheme by 1996-97. The Government, however, extended the scheme for the year 1997-98 so as to facilitate the transition.

(c) and (d) Consequent to gradual phasing out of Janata Cloth Scheme, the Govt. introduced two major development scheme – the Project Package Scheme w.e.f 1991-92 and the Handloom Development Centre Scheme w.e.f. 1993-94 to provide critical support in an integrated and coordinated manner to the handloom weavers, including the marketing support for sale of all their products to the people, including those below the poverty line.

Venture Capital Fund

1598. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Enterprises Selection Board had suggested for setting up of a Rs. 100 crores venture Capital Fund to help Indian Companies and scientists to get patents in the USA and other developed countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?