

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?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

HURRA Scheme under Rajmahal Project

1599. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start Hurra Scheme under the Rajmahal Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) At present there is no proposal to start Hurrah 'C' OC project under Rajmahal area of Eastern Coalfields Limited.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) Coal at Hurrah 'C' OC project is of inferior quality (Grade F & G). With this grade of coal the project is not economically viable and, as such investment decision for implementation of this project could not be taken. This project can only be taken up for mining if any consumer agrees to pay the cost plus price to make the project viable.

Pay Scales of Assistant

1600. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the representation of employees working as Assistants in Central Government regarding the increase in revised pay scales; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Jute Reservation Order 1987

1601. SHRIAMTI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any detailed plan to implement the Jute Reservation Order 1987;

(b) if so, the details of measures taken up by the Government for implementing the 50% of Cement Packaging in Jute Bags; and

(c) the measures taken up by the Government to advise the Ministry of Fertilizers for strict compliance of Jute Reservation Order 1987?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Implementation of Reservation Order for Cement Packaging in Jute Bags upto 50% of Cement production has remained unsatisfactory for various reasons. There have been spate of litigation numbering about 30 in various High Courts filed by Cement Workers Unions, Consumer bodies etc. Steps have been taken to contest these cases appropriately. At the same time application for transferring to these similar matters have been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(c) Under this Ministry's directive, Deptt. of Fertilizers under Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers have issued appropriate instructions to all the Urea Manufacturing Units in the Country for strict compliance with the Jute Reservation Order, 1987.

Deaths in Coal Mines

1602. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people killed and injured in the accidents in coal mines in the country during the last three years, mine-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the amount of compensations paid for the deceased and injured?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) The number of people killed and injured in accidents in coal mines in Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the last three years are given below :

	Company	No. of fatalities	No. of injuries
1995	CIL	192	612
	SCCL	21	191
1996	CIL	110	505
	SCCL	29	147
1997	CIL	112	437
	SCCL	35	125

Colliery-wise details are given enclosed Statement.