

management but rather due to protracted agitation by contractor's labour and non-cooperation by villagers. All efforts are being made by the Government and ECL to resolve these problems and commission the project.

#### Production and Import of Cotton Bales

1604. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of cotton bales imported during the last three years;
- (b) the total production of cotton in the country during the same period;
- (c) whether the production of cotton was low during the above period;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of cotton growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The total number of cotton bales imported and the total production of cotton in the country during the last three years are as under:

	Production (in lakh bales of 170 kg each)	Import
1995-96	169.20	0.50
1996-97	177.90	0.30
1997-98*	158.00	4.00

\*As estimated by the Cotton Advisory Board in its meeting held on 18.2.1999.

(c) and (d) The fall in production during the year 1997-98 was due to heavy intermittent rain, pest attack of American Bollworm and attack of leaf curl virus.

(e) To protect the interest of cotton growers in the country apart from announcing Minimum Support Prices (MSP), a Centrally sponsored scheme viz. Intensive Cotton Development Programme is being implemented in

11 major cotton growing States. The salient features of the scheme *inter alia* include transfer of technology to farmers, adoption of integrated pest management approach, popularising new varieties, enhancing area under irrigation through water saving devices, production of breeder seeds and distribution of certified seeds. Besides, Government has mooted to launch a Technology Mission on Cotton Development with objectives of research, dissemination of technology to farmers, improvement in marketing infrastructure and modernisation of ginning and pressing factories.

#### Complaints received by NSE from Investors

1605. SHRI VIJAY TIPE :  
SHRI MADAN PATIL :  
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE :  
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :  
SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL :  
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Stock Exchange (NSE) has received complaints against some companies from the investors;
- (b) if so, the number of complaints received during the last year and current year, indicating the nature of complaints; and
- (c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The National Stock Exchange of India Ltd. (NSE) received 578 complaints during April 1997—March 1998 and 494 complaints during April 1998—February 1999. The complaints relate to non-receipt of certificates after transfer/on allotment/on conversion of debentures, non-receipt of dividend interest, redemption value, erroneous transfer of shares, change in registered office etc.

(c) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) continuously monitors the performance of the NSE in redressal of investor grievances.

#### Export of Wheat Products to Maldives

1606. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: