

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:

(a) whether the Government have relaxed its ban on export of wheat products and allowed export of 20,000 tonnes of wheat products to Maldives during 1998-99;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware of the food shortage during the last two years and compelling it to import wheat from Australia; and

(c) if so, the reasons which compelled the Government to allow export of wheat products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) 20,000 MT of wheat products for exports to Maldives has been permitted keeping in view the small quantity/requirement involved and Maldives being a traditional importer of wheat products from India.

[Translation]

*Loans & Advances*  
**Loans to Poor People**

1607. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks are not providing loans to the poor people of Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes in the rural areas of Bihar, particularly in Shekhpura, Begusarai, Lakhisarai and Jammu Districts, whose mud houses have collapsed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of persons alongwith the extent of loan amount given by the banks in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Banks provide loans under various Government sponsored schemes for poverty alleviation and employment generation which are administered by different administrative Ministries of the Central Government. Under these schemes, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (SCs/STs) can avail the benefits of loan facilities. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have no separate information regarding bank loans to persons from

backward classes and scheduled tribes in rural areas of Bihar whose mud houses have collapsed.

(c) The details of outstanding loans of scheduled commercial banks in Bihar under priority sector during the last three years are given below :

Year Ending	Total Priority Sector Advances	
	No. of Accounts	Amount Outstanding (Rs. in lakhs)
March 1995	2753527	258953
March 1996	2529095	277256
March 1997 (Latest available with RBI)	2433796	299588

[English]

*216-24 Coal, Pollution*  
**Special Smokeless. Fuel**

1608. SHRIMATI SHEEA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Mine, Planning Designing Institute Ltd. (CMPDIL) Ranchi, have developed a sophisticated technology as a substitute for smoking coal for manufacturing a special smokeless fuel (SSF) for elimination/reduction of smoke pollution drudgery/health hazard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the locations of SSF units set up and commissioned/operated under the sponsorship of Coal India Ltd., State-wise;

(d) the details of tentatively cost with capacity; and

(e) the proposed estimate of CIL for setting up of additional new SSF units, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Sized coal is devolatilised in shallow depth internal heating retort