

(b) There are 14444 persons as on 31.3.1998 against whom Rs. 10 lakhs and more is outstanding as against 12616 persons as on 31.3.1997. The details of such persons are not furnished considering the voluminous nature of the data and the time and energy required for its compilation which may not be commensurate with the object sought to be achieved.

(c) to (e) The information is not readily available. The same is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. *Encl. 205*

Scrapping of DEPB Scheme

1595. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU :
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to scrap the Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme (DEPB) in view of its misuse;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the exporters have urged the Government to introduce other similar scheme before its scrapping; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) There is no proposal to scrap the Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme. *205-06*

Introduction of Insurance of Pilgrims to Hazardous Places *Tourism*

1596. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to introduce a Scheme for granting insurance cover to those undertaking pilgrimage to hazardous places or through hazardous routes; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

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) There is no proposal to introduce a specific insurance cover for those undertaking pilgrimage to hazardous places or through hazardous routes. The four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India are already issuing Personal Accident policies covering accidents and illnesses during travel. The cover operates from the date of travel upto actual return, on a 24 hours basis. Pilgrims can also avail of such policies for the duration of pilgrimage. *205-06*

Export to European and American Markets

1597. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consumption of goods made in India is less than Chinese goods in European and American markets;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of Indian goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The data of Indian and Chinese exports to USA and European Union during the year 1998 are as follows:—

	Indian Exports	Chinese Exports
To USA (during Jan-Dec, 98)	US\$ 8.225 b.	US\$ 71.156 b.
To EU (during Jan-July, 98)	ECU 6.01 b.	ECU 23.52 b.

(c) The upgradation and maintenance of quality of