

and research on the philosophy of Lord Mahavira and the study of comparative religions for celebrating Lord Mahavir Mahaparinirvana; and

(b) if so, what is the progress made so far in the implementation of the programme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE I (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) and (b) A j statement is laid on the table of the House.

#### Statement

The National Committee set up for the celebrations of 2500th anniversary of Bhagwan Mahavir's Nirvan recommended the following items, among others, for inclusion in the programme :—

- (i) Publication of works on the life and teachings of Bhagwan Mahavir and other literature relevant to the occasion;
- (ii) Organization of celebrations by Indian Missions abroad;
- (iii) Development of a 'Vanasthali' and setting up of a museum and library of Jain art and literature in Delhi;
- (iv) Declaration of Nirvan Mahot-sava Year as "Ahimsa" year.

2. As regards the publication works, the details of the scheme have to be drawn up by the Editorial Board set up for the purpose.

3. With a view to organise celebrations by the Indian Missions abroad, the material for publicity as well as a list of countries where there is a sizeable Jain community, is being collected.

4. A site has been earmarked for the 'Vana9thali' on the Ridge near Buddha Jayanti Park in Delhi.

5. After a non-official registered society is formed for the memorial comprising a museum and a library, the Government will consider making a con-

tribution towards expenditure on construction of its building.

6. The recommendation regarding declaration of Nirvan Mahotsav year as "Ahimsa" year was conveyed to all State Governments for their consideration.

7. There is no proposal under consideration for establishment of a Chair of Jainology in the Central and State Universities or opening of a university to promote the study and research on the philosophy of Lord Mahavira and the study of comparative religions.

#### Cotton Price and its effect on production

1698. SHRI DEORAO PATIL : SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of cotton has become unremunerative as a result of sharp decline in prices of raw cotton during the last four months;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take suitable measures to stabilise the prices of cotton at a remunerative level so as to increase the production of cotton ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) With the arrival of new crop, prices of cotton have, no doubt, declined in different productive areas of the country, but they on an average, continue to be higher than those of last year and two years ago. The all-India average index for the first four weeks of November 1974 shows a rise of 1.4 per cent over the corresponding index of 1973 and 60 per cent over the corresponding index of 1972. However, the Government are carefully assessing the present situation and a monitored purchase operation scheme consistent with the overall national interest is under consideration.