

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CASH CROPS

***1596. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land under the cultivation of cash crops has increased at the expense of cultivation of food crops after the introduction of food controls; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to avert this process?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Until the inauguration of the integrated production Programme in 1950, there was no official plan for the diversion of land from foodgrains to cash crops. Under this programme, however, a plan was made under which the Government was prepared for the diversion, if necessary, of 37.3 lakh acres from foodgrains (rice, millets and ragi) to jute and cotton in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52, with a view to augmenting the production of these two important cash crops. In the absence of exhaustive field to field surveys of land, it is not possible to arrive at any firm estimate of the amount of land that was *actually* diverted from foodgrains to jute and cotton in the two years concerned. On the basis, however, of the available data it is roughly estimated that in the sixteen states where there were plans for diversion from foodgrains to jute and cotton the maximum amount of net diversion of land from the former to the latter that may have taken place during these two years is likely to be of the order of 17.4 lakh acres only. There was no plan for diversion in other states or to other cash crops although there was some diversion due to natural causes. For the reasons explained above, it is not possible to frame any firm estimate of this diversion. But roughly speaking the net diversion from foodgrains to the five important cash crops, namely, jute, cotton, oilseeds, sugarcane and tobacco taken together does not exceed 3.3 million acres during these two years for the country as a whole. The actual diversion is in fact, likely to be appreciably less as the above estimate is based on the extreme assumption that all the addition to these cash crops was at the expense of foodgrains and not of other crops or of fallows nor due to double cropping and inter-cropping.

(b) Does not arise.

ALLOTMENT OF FOODGRAINS BY U.P. TO CENTRE

***1601. Shri Ganpati Ram:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.P. Government have procured any stock of food grains for fulfilling its rationing commitments till December 1952 and if so, its quantity;

(b) whether U.P. Government have also allotted any stock out of that to the Centre for distribution to the deficit States; and

(c) if so, what is the quantity of different kinds of foodgrains so allotted?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The State Government procured 4,52,000 tons of foodgrains up to 19th June 1952 this year, to fulfil their commitments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Government have hitherto offered for export 15,000 tons of rice, 15,000 tons of bajra and 2,300 tons of barley.

NORTH ANDAMAN FOREST

***1602. Shri Jhunjhunwala:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions on which the tenders for working of North Andaman Forest were invited;

(b) the terms and conditions on which the final contract has been given;

(c) to whom the contract has been given; and

(d) whether the party has complied with the terms and conditions on which they have been given contract?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) and (b). A copy of the North Andamans Agreement of Licence is placed in the Library of the House. The tender notice is printed on page 9.

(c) Messrs. P. C. Ray and Company (India) Limited, Calcutta.

(d) Yes.

SUGARCANE (DESTRUCTION)

***1607. Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in some States the sugarcane standing in the fields is going to be burnt as

the Sugar Factories managements concerned have refused to crush the remaining cane;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps for saving it from destruction; and

(c) if so, what are the steps and their results?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) The reports so far received from the State Governments indicate that no sugarcane will be left standing in the fields which may have to be burnt.

(b) and (c). Some factories had complained of financial difficulties in view of large production and accumulated stocks and their inability to crush available cane. To overcome this difficulty and to encourage the factories to crush all available cane, Government of India had issued special orders on 19th April, 1952 permitting the factories to defer payment of the price of cane above Re. 1 per maund. Further, as the factories were getting reduced recovery of sugar due to the advent of the hot season, Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab were specially authorised to allow suitable rebates on cane crushed after 1st May. The Uttar Pradesh Government has stated that as a result of these measures no cane would be left uncrushed in reserved zones in that State.

AGRICULTURAL GOVERNMENT FARMS

***1608. Shri B. N. Roy:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of farms which are directly under the Government of India;

(b) whether there is any proposal by the Central Government for starting cultivation in new farms during the current year; and

(c) if so, acreage proposed and the places decided?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) About 3,400 acres in the Institutes and Commodity Committees under the control of the Ministry.

(b) None.

(c) Does not arise.

LIVESTOCK CENSUS

***1613. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the All-India Livestock Census Report has been compiled and published?

146 PSD

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): Not yet, but the provisional number of livestock and poultry in India has been published in the Journal 'Agricultural Situation in India' May, 1952.

PANCHAYAT BOARD ELECTIONS

***1614. Shri Muniswamy:** Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the extra departmental staff of the Postal Department are prohibited from contesting the Panchayat Board Elections, and if so, the reasons thereof?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): Yes, but the position is being re-examined.

UPLIFT OF TRIBAL PEOPLE

***1615. Shri R. B. Shah:** Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts placed at the disposal of the Madhya Pradesh Government, in the years 1950-51 and 1951-52, for the uplift of the tribal people;

(b) whether that amount is fully utilised by Madhya Pradesh Government; and

(c) if not what are the reasons?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) 1950-51—Nil.

1951-52—Rs. 12 lakhs.

(b) and (c). The information is not yet available.

RAILWAY SCHOOLS

***1616. Shri K. C. Sodhia:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway Schools functioning during 1951-52; and

(b) how many of them are technical schools?

The Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri L. B. Shastri): (a) and (b).—

(i) Educational	144
(ii) Training Schools for Railway Staff	30

TOTAL	174
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ADMINISTRATION OF SCHEDULED AREAS

***1617. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state: