

Jute Cultivation

*1342. **Shri P. C. Borooah**: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether jute cultivation acreage is likely to fall this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps that are being taken to improve the situation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Some reduction in the acreage under jute in India may occur this year.

(b) In 1961-62 the area under jute was exceptionally high under the impetus of abnormally high prices which even caused the diversion of paddy land to the cultivation of jute in some States. In 1962-63 the area under jute may show some fall partly because of unfavourable weather conditions in some areas at the time of sowing and partly on account of decline in prices.

(c) It is planned to increase production of jute mainly through an increase in yield per acre and not through increase in acreage. Steps being taken in this direction are (i) use of improved seeds (ii) increased use of fertilisers (iii) improved cultural practices and (iv) plant protection measures.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the State Governments have been requested to take necessary steps to increase jute production, and if so, what is the general response?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, the production of jute, as I said in the main reply, has been abnormally high during the last season. The target that was fixed for the Third Plan has been achieved. We have produced already more than that.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government have restricted the area of production of jute, and if so, to what extent?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Actually, without Government coming into the picture, the growers themselves decrease the acreage under jute or any other crop, and that they do according to the prices. Because this year the prices have come down, the acreage under jute cultivation will naturally be reduced to some extent.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : श्री मंत्री जी ने बताया कि जूट का उत्पादन ज्यादा हो गया है, इसलिए कीमत गिरने से जूट के उत्पादन के गिरने की आशंका है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार क्या उपाय सोच रही है कि जिससे जूट की कीमत न गिरे और उत्पादन घटे बड़े ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : जी तीसरी योजना का लक्ष्य है उसमें नीचे जूट का उत्पादन नहीं होने दिया जाएगा और यह भी देखा जाएगा कि जूट के उत्पादकों को कोई कठिनाई न होने पावे जिससे कीमत के चलते वे स्वयं जूट का उत्पादन घटा दें।

Shri Mohammad Tahir: What is the reason for the decline in the price of jute, and may I know whether the price of jute goods has also decreased accordingly?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The main reason is that the production has been too much.

Shri Tyagi: Have Government fixed any basic price for jute, and if so, has the cost of production been taken into account?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): We are considering that for all the agricultural commodities, the basic price—not the basic price, but what he means is the floor price or the minimum price—should be fixed. So far as jute is concerned, we did that without calling it a minimum price etc., by way of persuasion, but the time has come when this principle has got to be extended.

Shri Tyagi: What was that price?

Shri S. K. Patil: Rs. 30 per maund.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: The hon. Minister of State mentioned that even during the first year of the Third Plan the target fixed for the Third Plan had been over-reached. May I know the basis for fixing these targets which have no meaning and which are reached even without the effort of the Government?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is not due to the fact that it has no meaning. The target is fixed by the Planning Commission on the basis of our requirements, and we have produced a little more than our requirements, but the requirement may go up in course of time. So, we are not worried about that production.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: Is there any proposal to fix a minimum price for jute in view of the importance of jute?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: As my senior colleague said, though we have not statutorily fixed any minimum price, yet by persuasion this has been done.

Shri Yallamanda Reddy: But that is not working.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, that is there. The buffer stock agency is operating and it is purchasing jute at Rs. 30 per maund, and in case the price goes down, that will be considered.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether the production of jute last year was less than the requirements of the jute mill's, whether the price has gone down because of the manipulation of the jute magnates and whether the buffer stock arrangement will be made by the Government or the Jute Mill's Association?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That question is under constant consideration, and we will see that all the anomalies are removed.

'Development Areas' in Delhi

*1343. **Shri Shiv Charan Gupta:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to

state:

(a) the areas declared as 'Development Areas' in Delhi;

(b) how much of these areas is to be planned and developed in 1962-63 and the remaining years of the Third Five Year Plan by the Delhi Development Authority; and

(c) what is the proposal for developing villages or unauthorisedly constructed areas in these areas?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 103].

Shri Shiv Charan Gupta: In reply to part (a), it has been said that 3,097 acres of land have been declared as 'Development Area'. In reply to part (b) it is said that the total area expected to be developed during the Third Five Year Plan is about 5,000 acres. What explains this difference?

Dr. D. S. Raju: Originally it was expected to develop about 5,000 acres of the area. But, subsequently, about 1100 acres were handed over to the Municipal Corporation for slum clearance schemes and the area has fallen down. Subsequently, the DDA wanted to acquire and develop some more land so that the development area would be 5000 acres in the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri Shiv Charan Gupta: It is not clear. According to the Third Five Year Plan proposals, about 3,000 acres of land are to be developed in Delhi and the slum clearance schemes are outside the purview of the development area. It is not clear as to what actually the Minister means?

Dr. D. S. Raju: About 5000 acres in all will be developed during the Third Five Year Plan.

Shri Shiv Charan Gupta: I want to know whether any proposal to declare more areas as development areas has been considered after the September