

(b) The transfer of control of these exchanges will enable better coordination in improving the telephone service as well as execution of future plans for provision of automatic exchanges with facilities for direct dialling between the subscribers in Delhi and these outlying areas.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: As a result of the extension of these facilities, how far will the pressure for having new lines, regarding which a large number is still on the waiting list, be relieved?

Shri B. C. Bhagavati: We are proposing to have 200-line automatic exchanges for these satellite towns. When we instal these exchanges, I think it will give much relief.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Against the 200 lines going to be given, what is the number on the waiting list for connections? Is it in terms of thousands?

Shri B. C. Bhagavati: At present, the number on the waiting list in Narela is 51, in Bahadurgarh 92 and in Ballabhgarh 55.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: Have the figures just mentioned by the hon. Minister been sanctioned or so many applications have been received?

Shri B. C. Bhagavati: So many applications have been received; they are on the waiting list.

Shri D. N. Tiwary: For connection: not the total applications received?

Shri B. C. Bhagavati: Total applications in the waiting list.

Shri D. C. Sharma: In what way has the transfer of the control of these three townships to the Delhi Telephone Exchange added to the efficiency of the service in Delhi which is already low?

Shri B. C. Bhagavati: Under the Master Plan for Delhi, it is envisaged that these areas will be developed on a large scale. Keeping that in view, we have also to plan for tele-communication development in these

areas. I am sure the steps now contemplated will bring about much improvement in future. For the time being, it has been found to be very advantageous for the administration.

Agricultural Production

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*334. { **Shri P. C. Borooh:**
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Ragnath Singh:
Shri Eswara Reddy:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Maheswar Naik:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:
Shri Bade:
Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Jashvant Mehta:
Shri G. Mohanty:
Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri S. N. Chaturvedi:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the final figures for agricultural production for 1962-63 are now available;

(b) if so, the figures for important crops; and

(c) how they compare with the figures for the previous year?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The figures of production for important crops are:

	1962-63	1961-62
Foodgrains (million tons)	77.5	79.8
Oilseeds (million tons)	6.8	6.8
Sugarcane (million tons in terms of Gur)	9.2	10.0
Jute (million bales)	5.4	6.3
Cotton (million bales)	5.3	4.5

Shri P. C. Borooh: Have States been asked to submit special programmes for boosting up their production during the rest of the Plan period? If so, has Assam reacted to

the suggestion? If so, what is the amount they want for implementation of their proposals?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, all the States have submitted their Plans. Assam is also among them. Apart from special schemes for jute, Assam is covered by the Plan allocation, because for jute we have provided additional allocation.

Shri P. C. Borooah: May I know whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the recent statement of the FAO authorities to the effect that if properly exploited, the lower basin of Ganges and Brahmaputra, comprising Assam, Bengal and Bihar, will be able to raise the crop to four times the present figure; if so, what is Government's reaction to it; if favourable, what steps Government have taken to implement it?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The Gangetic plain can give a much larger yield, and that is why we are now going to concentrate on special programmes for jute, vegetables and other things also.

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether the agricultural production given by the Minister is commensurate with the additional area that has been brought under irrigation; if not, what is the reason?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The area that has been brought under irrigation alone does not account for the entire agricultural production. Eighty per cent of Indian acreage is under dry farming, and that largely influences the production figures.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know if cotton production has gone down, and what special steps have been taken to give an impetus to it so that its production may be up to the mark in the coming year?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is not correct. Cotton production increased in 1962-63 as compared to 1961-62, and this year it is much better.

Shri P. R. Chakraverti: May I know whether Government's attention has been drawn to the remarks made by the Programme Adviser to the Planning Commission that the yield per acre in the beginning of the century was double in some parts of India, especially Madras, because of the traditional manures being used; if so, whether Government is giving more attention to that fact?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is true that yield in Madras State was better at that time, but now the yield in Madras State has gone still higher.

Shri Jashwant Mehta: Which are the States which are showing improvement in agricultural production, and what steps Government have taken after the last debate to increase agricultural production in those States?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Last year, rice production fell by about 2.7 million tons, and we have therefore planned to give special attention to paddy cultivation, and most of the States that produce paddy are included in that programme. For wheat and millets also, we have included about 70 districts in that programme.

Shri Ranga: In view of the considerable damage that is caused—ordinarily 20 per cent, but rising up to 50 per cent sometimes—by the pests which affect the various crops like wheat; rice and cereals, do Government propose to give special priority for research as well as field-scale work for fighting these pests?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: For fighting the pests in paddy area we have given this time 25 per cent more subsidy, that is, we have increased it from 25 to 50% wherever paddy was having an epidemic type of disease. In regard to cotton, chilly, tobacco etc., wherever concentrated action is needed, we are going to give subsidy to the tune of two-thirds of the entire expenditure. If it is in the nature of

a bigger type of disease, we can bear the entire expenditure, and our aerial unit can also go there if such help is sought by the States. So far as research in this field is concerned, we shall concentrate more and more on it and see that more pesticides are manufactured and the prices are also reduced.

Shri Indrajit Gupta: In view of the fact that not only rice production but wheat production also has fallen in 1962-63, has Government tried to ascertain why the yield per acre has continued to be stagnant despite huge amounts spent for intensive cultivation?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It is true that as compared to 1961-62, production of wheat was a little less in 1962-63. As the hon. Member knows barring certain areas, particularly in Punjab and Western U.P. wheat is entirely a dry crop.

Shri Kapur Singh: I want to know whether at this stage Government are prepared to examine as to how far persistent low agricultural production in the country is ascribable to the new fangled land policies that we are pursuing?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: We are constantly examining any genuine difficulties that are brought to our notice.

Shri Kapur Singh: He is talking about difficulties I said something else.

Mr. Speaker: He asked whether they are attributable to land reform policies. They will examine it.

श्री अ० प्र० शर्मा : मानीय मंत्री ने अभी यह कहा कि गैजेटिक वैली पैदावार की दृष्टि से बहुत ज्यादा उपयोगी है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार का गंगा के किनारे का वह हिस्सा जहाँ सिंचाई का कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं है, वहाँ के लिये सरकार का क्या कोई इरादा है कि नल कूप आदि जल्द से जल्द जगाने की व्यवस्था करे जिससे कि वहाँ की पैदावार बढ़े ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : गंगा की घाटी में और खास कर बिहार का वह हिस्सा जहाँ से माननीय सदस्य आते हैं, बक्सर से कांइलवर तक करीब १५० नलकूप १९५५ के बाद जगाये गये हैं। उन के अलावा कुछ और भी नलकूप हाल में लगाये जा रहे हैं। उन के क्षेत्र में भी ७-८ नलकूप लगाये गये हैं। सिंचाई की व्यवस्था करने का काम जारी है और इस तरीके से धीरे धीरे हर जगह पर, गंगा के दोनों ओर, गैजेटिक वैली के माने हैं नदी तथा उसकी शाखा नदियों के दोनों कूलों की जमीनें, जाहिर है कि यह काम धीरे धीरे उन में बढ़ेगा।

श्री क० ना० तिवारी : एग््रीकल्चरल प्रोडक्शन की फीगर्स लेने का कौन सा तरीका है और इस में ग्राम पंचायत क्या पार्ट भदा करती है ?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : इस के आंकड़े संग्रह करने का अब तक कुछ जगहों पर जो तरीका है वह यह है कि खेत अर्थात् फसल काटी जाती है और उस को पीट कर जो अनाज मिलता है उस से उस के वजन को रिपोर्ट करते हैं लेकिन यह तरीका मैं ऐसा नहीं मानता कि बिल्कुल शतप्रतिशत सही है और हम उस में सुधार करने का यत्न करेंगे।

Dr. Sarojini Mahishi: Is there any improvement in the productivity of the soil for commercial crops as compared to that of the previous year?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, Sir there is marked improvement particularly in regard to cotton production in irrigated areas of Punjab and virtually every year the per acre yield is going up.

Shri Tyagi: May I know which of the Ministries is primarily responsible for the achievement of plan targets in agricultural production and how these figures which the hon. Minister has quoted compare with plan targets?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: In regard to agricultural production Food and Agriculture Ministry is responsible. The plan target is 100 million tons and what I have stated is about 80 million tons.

Shri Tyagi: I want commoditywise details.

Mr. Speaker: What is contained in other publications, I would not allow them to be read here.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: Has the Government any plan for apportioning the production of various kinds of agricultural commodities according to the soil and climatic conditions; or, keeping in view the overall shortage of foodgrains, do they feel that each region and each area should be made self-sufficient in foodgrains alone?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: As I said in the beginning, taking for instance, paddy production, we shall have to concentrate in regard to the stepping up of the production of paddy only in that type of land where paddy can be profitable grown; so is the case with wheat and other products. We will specialise more and more in that field.

Shrimati Renuka Ray: What about cotton?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

Agricultural Commodities Advisory Committee

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- *335. { Shri Yashpal Singh:
Dr. L. M. Singhvi:
Shri Daji:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision to set up an Agricultural Commodities Advisory Committee has since been arrived at; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) and (b). No decision has been arrived at on the question of setting up an Agricultural Commodities Advisory Committee.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : इस कमेटी को कब तक कायम करने का ख्याल है ।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : एक बार पहले इस पर विचार किया गया था । दो बार यह मैनर कैबिनेट में गया और चूँकि कुछ कारणों से वहाँ इस पर तसफिया न हो सका, इसलिये इस वक्त फिर इस पर विचार किया जा रहा है और इस को जल्दी कायम किया जायेगा ।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : किसानों से जो आधे दामों पर गल्ला खरीदकर फिर दुगने दामों पर बेचा जाता है, क्या इस पर विचार करने के लिये भी इस कमेटी में कोई प्राविजन रखा गया है ? क्या सरकार के ख्याल में यह कमेटी इस की भी देखभाल करेगी ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पहले कमेटी तो बनने दीजिये ।

डा० राम सुभग सिंह : जब यह कमेटी बनेगी, तभी इस के बारे में सही उत्तर मैं दे सकूँगा । अभी यह मसिति नहीं बनी है ।

Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah: May I know whether the Government think it desirable to set up this Committee as early as possible so as to ensure a minimum price for agricultural produce in the country?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, Sir. We shall expedite it.

Import of Steel for Railways

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- *336. { Shri Umanath:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Mohindra & Mohindra Ltd., Calcutta