

(d) The recommendations of the Indian Sugarcane Development Council have been accepted by the Ministry and the State Governments advised accordingly.

Export of Cinnamon from Manipur and its Price

2411. SHRI M. MEGHACHANDRA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether large quantity of cinnamon is found in the forest of Manipur and the same is exported by private agencies outside Manipur for the last few years;

(b) if so, the price prevailing in the Indian market and the price as in Manipur; and

(c) whether the Government of Manipur has taken measures for profitable sale of this forest product ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) to (c). The Information is being collected from the concerned quarters and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Notification of Government Land through Employment Exchange

2412 SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state why should not Government land which is not taken up by local residents be notified through Employment Exchanges so that all Government land in all the States is distributed by the end of 1971 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : Agricultural land at the disposal of the Government are distributed through village panchayats or local officers who are considered competent to distribute such land equitably taking into account local conditions and needs of the beneficiaries.

Proposal for Rajasthan Drought Relief Work

2414. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Rajasthan has submitted concrete proposals for assistance from the Central Government for drought relief work in the States; and

(b) if so, the nature of relief work proposed to be started by the State Government and the quantum of assistance sought and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Rice Production

2415. SHRI D. N. PATODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more areas have been brought under rice cultivation;

(b) whether Government have made adequate arrangement for the supply of good quality seeds and manure for paddy cultivation;

(c) if so, the particulars of action taken in this regard; and

(d) the shortfall in the production of rice at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. During 1969-70 the total area under rice increased by about 0.7 million hectares over the area covered during 1968-69.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Adequate arrangements for the

supply of quality seeds of paddy have been made by the National Seeds Corporation and Tarai Development Corporation apart from private seed industry. A net-work of sale points has been established throughout the country for seeds and fertilisers.

(d) In the absence of any comprehensive and scientific survey on consumption and in view of the fact that the requirements of rice are elastic to some extent depending upon the availability of rice and other substitute foodstuffs, their comparative prices, level of income, population growth, extent of urbanisation etc., it is not possible to frame a precise quantitative estimate of the requirements of rice in the country. In view of the above, it is difficult to give a precise estimate of the shortfall in the production of rice at present.

वर्षा के जल को भूमि के नीचे एकत्रित करना :

2416. श्री महाराज सिंह भारती : क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या सरकार पानी की कमी वाले क्षेत्रों में तथा जहाँ पानी का स्तर बहुत नीचे है, वहाँ भूमि के नीचे वर्षा के जल को एकत्रित करने के लिये कोई कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अन्नासाहेब शिन्दे) : जी हाँ। कक्ष क्षेत्रों में कन्दर बान्ध, चूक बान्ध, खाजिन, सैप्ट, अतः स्वर्ण कुंज तथा भंडारण तालाब आदि कार्यों पर विशेष बल दिया जा रहा है। इस प्रकार के कार्यों से मृदा तथा जल ही संरक्षित नहीं होता अपितु भूमि द्वारा अधिकाधिक मात्रा में वर्षा जल के अन्तः संचयन में सहायता मिलती है।

Plan for Stabilisation of Loose Sand piled up on sides of Rajasthan Canal

**2417. SHRI N. K. SANGHI:
SHRI HIMATSINGKA :**

Will the Minister of FOOD AND

AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

a) whether a team of experts of the Indian National Science Academy after investigation in the Rajasthan desert has warned that loose sand excavated for constructing Rajasthan canal "can work havoc for years to come" and that without protective measures, the channels, distributaries and Agricultural land in the vicinity are in danger of clogging and burial by sand blown over from the huge man made dunes;

(b) whether there was any problem as above during the last year;

(c) whether the accumulation of loose sand will not help the desert to advance northwards more rapidly than hitherto; and

(d) what measures have been taken or are being taken for stabilisation of the loose sand piled up on either side of the canal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE):(a) to (d), The commanded and un-commanded area of the Rajasthan Canal Project is a part of the Great Indian Desert, and the Project has both flat and dune areas. During the period of strong winds, tremendous amount of sand drift does take place. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture) had sent a team of experts to the Rajasthan Canal project area during June, 1970 to identify problems and suggest measures to control wind erosion in the commanded area. This team observed that the Rajasthan Main Canal, branch canals and distributaries annually are subject to varying degrees of blockage from drifting sand. The extent ranges from complete blockage on or more times each year on certain distributaries, to serious loss of capacity on the main canal. The source of the sand is from fields, grazing lands or waste-lands of sandy texture. The loamy soil areas were not observed to be materially affected. The magnitude of the problem can be realised in that roughly 89 per cent of the entire phase I area is of