

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI-MATI ABHA MAITI): (a) According to the latest reports, area under cultivation of jute and mesta in Assam during the current season is 93.2 thousand and 9.00 thousand hectares respectively.

(b) and (c). Statutory minimum price of raw jute for 1978-79 season has been fixed at Rs. 150 per quintal for W-5 grade in Assam. For ensuring that the full benefit of the statutory minimum prices reaches the jute growers, it has been decided to enlarge the scope of operations of Jute Corporation of India who have been directed to procure at least 20 per cent of their total purchases directly from the primary markets.

American Expedition to the Nanda Devi Peak

1438. **SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had permitted an American Expedition to the Nanda Devi Peak in June, 1978; and

(b) if so, the reasons why the permission was given in view of the past spying mission to the Nanda Devi Peak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) A proposal for an American Expedition to Nanda Devi in May-June, 1978 was accepted in principle in 1976 and formal permission granted in March, 1978.

(b) The permission was granted before information about the alleged spying mission to the peak came to notice.

Guidelines to States on preparation of Annual Plans

1439. **SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sent the guidelines to the

States on preparation of annual plans for 1979-80 and sectoral allocations for the next five years; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). No Guidelines have so far been sent to the States on the preparation of the Annual Plan for 1979-80. Guidelines were sent to the State Governments in June for the preparation of their Draft Five Year Plans for 1978-83.

These Draft Plans are expected to be received by the Planning Commission in August.

Coal Shortage in Delhi

1440. **SHRI S. R. DAMANI:**

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the acute shortage of soft coke in the Capital in recent months;

(b) whether it is a fact that since January this year B.C.C.L. has supplied much less every month than the fixed quota of 1500 wagons a month and upto middle of June, not a single wagon has arrived;

(c) if so, the full details thereof; and

(d) whether remedial action has since been taken, and is so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There was some shortage of soft coke in Delhi in recent months.

(b) and (c) The supply of soft coke since January, 1978 has been around 70 per cent of the demand. The