

Statement

According to the final estimates the production of cotton for 1978-79 is put at 71.03 lakh bales. The Cotton Advisory Board has tentatively estimated the cotton crop for 1978-79 cotton season at 71/72-50 lakh bales. Staple-wise details for these two years are not yet available. The difference in Bombay spot prices (spot prices at Surat not being available) of major varieties of cotton as on 15-11-78 and 15-11-77 is indicated below:—

S. No.	Variety	Spot prices in 15-11-78	Rs. per Candy 15-11-77	Differenc (3)—(4)
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Short staple</i>				
	Bengal Deshi	2328	2432	—104
<i>Medium Staple</i>				
	J-34	2556	3202	—646
	Kalayan	2512	2875	—363
	A-51/9	3575	3950	—375
<i>Long staple</i>				
	MCU 5	4600	4525	+75
	Shankar-4	5125	4750	+375
	Varalaxmi	6500	6600	—100

Index number of wholesale prices of raw cotton which stood at 177.2 during November, 1977 came down to 167.9 (provisional) during November, 1978.

Bridge on River Jamuna to connect Saharanpur and Karnal

4214. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

— (a) whether he is aware that a feasibility survey was conducted for the construction of a bridge over river Jamuna to connect District Saharanpur in U.P. with district Karnal in Haryana near village Lakhnauti of district Saharanpur (U.P.) ;

(b) what is the result of such survey; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in relation thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) to (c). It is a State project and the State Government are primarily concerned in the matter. They have intimated that they have not conducted or proposed any survey for this bridge.

Report of working group on problems of Adivasis

4245. SHRI BHARAT SINGH CHOWHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a study group appointed to go into the problems of Adivasis has submitted its report to Government; and

(b) if so, the recommendations of the Report and the details of the action taken by Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL) : (a) A working Group on Tribal Development to review the programmes for tribal development and advise on the approach, strategy and priorities during the medium-term plan 1978-83 was set up, and it submitted its report in August, 1978.

(b) A statement giving the recommendations is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3102/78].