

**Cotton Production**

9074. SHRI GYANESHWAR PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether cotton is produced now much more than it was produced in the previous few years;

(b) if so, the production details since 1975 till 1978 per year;

(c) whether due to increase in production, the farmers are suffering a lot as they are getting less for their produce while they were getting more price while their production was less in previous years; and

(d) if so, the steps Government are taking in this direction to get them remunerative price for cotton?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). Yes, sir. The production of cotton which was placed at 59.50 lakh bales during 1975-76, and 58.39 lakh bales in 1976-77, marked a rise to 71.03 lakh bales in 1977-78; the production of cotton in 1978-79 is expected to be still better at around 75 to 76 lakh bales.

(c) and (d). Because of the rise in production, the prices of cotton in 1977-78 marked some decline as compared to the very high prices in the previous year. The annual average wholesale price-index for 1977-78 was 178.1 as against 207.7 in 1976-77. In view of the easy fibre supply situation and bright production prospects in 1978-79, the prices of cotton showed a declining tendency from the beginning of the current crop season. Various measures have been taken by Government to prevent undue fall in prices to protect the interests of the cotton growers. These include:

(i) Enlargement of the role of the Cotton Corporation of India and directing it to purchase cotton for sale not only to mills in the public

sector but also to mills in the private sector and also to build up a buffer stock of cotton;

(ii) upward revision of stock limits for mills;

(iii) decision not to import cotton from abroad to the detriment of indigenous cotton growers;

(iv) export of staple cotton to the extent of 3.5 lakh bales;

(v) export of Bengal Deshi cotton, soft cotton waste and yellow pickings;

(vi) removal of the statutory stipulation, which enjoined on the textile mills, a compulsory use of 10 per cent non-cotton fibres;

(vii) imposition of import duty on viscose staple fibre and increase in the excise duty on indigenous viscose staple fibre.

As result of these measures, the index of cotton prices, which had come down to 161.8 at the end of February 1979, has risen again to 167.6 on 7th April, 1979.

**Second Master Plan for Delhi**

9075. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: WILL THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) what specific steps Government is taking to have a new Master Plan for Delhi;

(b) when the second Master plan of Delhi will be ready and what will be its estimated cost;

(c) what basic difference in approach Government wants to keep in view in preparing the second Master Plan for Delhi;

(d) when the regional plans in Delhi will be finalised;

(e) give the details of places where the Central Government, State Governments, Union Territory of Delhi,