

FERTILISERS (DISTRIBUTION)

277. Shri Jasan: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state at what rate the fertilizers produced by the Sindri Factory are supplied to the cultivators?

(b) Is any concession being given to the cultivators under the 'Grow More Food Scheme' and if so, at what rate and under what terms?

(c) What is the proportion of the yield of crop increase by the application of fertilizers?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) A Statement furnishing the rates at which fertilizers produced by the Sindri Factory are supplied to the cultivators in different States is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 45.]

(b) Nitrogenous fertilizers like Sulphate of Ammonia, being very popular with the agriculturists is not eligible for subsidy. A total subsidy of not more than 25 per cent. is however, given for the distribution of other fertilizers. Short term loans at about 3 per cent. per annum are also given for financing the purchase of fertilizers.

(c) The application of 1 ton of sulphate of ammonia normally gives an increased yield of $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton to 2 tons of extra food-grains.

FAMILY PLANNING COMMISSION

278. Shri Balakrishnan: (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government have taken steps to popularise the Family Planning Scheme?

(b) If so, what steps are being taken to popularize the Scheme?

The Minister of Health (Bajkumari Amri: Kaur): (a) and (b). Government have screened a film called "Planned Parenthood" in English and six other Indian languages. Three centres have been opened where pilot studies in the rhythm method of family planning are being conducted. A leaflet on the subject has been circulated in the Family Planning Centres and to individuals who asked for it. It is also proposed to film the working of the Centres, to arrange radio talks and to get posters printed for exhibition. Married persons are being given advice on the Rhythm method in the Family Planning Centres at Delhi and Ramnagar.

JUTE

279. Shri K. C. Sodhia: (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state what was the total amount of grant spent by the Central Government to secure increase in the production of jute during 1951-52?

(b) What was the amount of grant given to each State?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Rs. 8.47 lakhs.

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| (b) West Bengal | Rs. 3,90,800 |
| Assam | Rs. 85,540 |
| Bihar | Rs. 73,570 |
| Orissa | Rs. 1,07,575 |
| U.P. | Rs. 1,89,725 |

EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL BRANCH POST MASTERS

280. Shri Achuthan: (a) Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state how many Extra Departmental Branch Post Masters are now working in India?

(b) Are there any qualifications fixed for appointing them and whether the local revenue authorities are consulted before appointing them?

(c) How many hours per day are they expected to attend the office and do they enjoy any prior claim to be selected to the regular service if otherwise qualified?

(d) What are the main contents of the latest memorandum submitted by them and what are the decisions thereon?

The Deputy Minister of Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) 33,460 on 30th April, 1952.

(b) No minimum educational qualifications have been prescribed, the main criterion being that the persons selected must have private income or business of their own and live permanently at the places at which they are employed and must be otherwise suitable. Local Civil authorities are generally consulted before making such appointments.

(c) Upto five hours a day. They are eligible to take the Postmen's test as departmental officials provided they are within 40 years of age. Such of them as are otherwise qualified (viz. possess the minimum educational qualification of a pass in the Matriculation examination or its equivalent) are permitted to appear upto the age of 30 years as outside candidates in the examination for recruitment of clerks.