

Jute Production in Bihar

1289 **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jute crop in Bihar in the year 1958-59 exceeded that of the previous year, and

(b) whether on account of large jute crop the prices of jute received by the growers are much below than the previous season?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Yes, Sir

Jute

1290. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia.** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state the efforts being made to improve the quality of low quality jute in India?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain). The following measures recommended by the Expert Committee on quality of jute in its report in 1953, have been taken to improve the quality of jute grown in the country —

- (1) Construction of more new retting tanks and renovation of old ones
- (2) Establishment of jute seed multiplication farms in the jute growing States of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, U.P. and Orissa with a view to supplying improved varieties of seed to the jute growers
- (3) A Central Nucleus Jute Seed Multiplication Farm with a production capacity of about 450 maunds has been set up at Pannagarh in West Bengal for multiplying improved seeds for supply to the jute growing States for further multiplication in the State Farms
- (4) Supply of 1000 each of seed drills and wheel hoes free of

cost to the State Governments for introduction of improved cultural practices such as line-sowing

(5) Adoption of plant protection measures, and

(6) Training of jute Development Staff in improved methods of jute cultivation

Booking of Power-loom Cloth as Hand-loom Cloth

1291 **Pandit D. N. Tiwary.** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that some merchants of Amritsar were cheating Railways by labelling power-loom cloth as hand-loom cloth for which concession in freight rate is allowed,

(b) whether any case has been instituted against them, and

(c) the amount involved in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri S. V. Ramaswamy): (a) No such case has come to the notice of the Railway Administration

(b) and (c) Do not arise

P & T. Volunteers

1292. { **Shri S. M. Banerjee**
Shri Tangamani
Shri A. K. Gopalan

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state

(a) whether Posts and Telegraphs Unions have represented against giving any preference to the volunteers who served the department during the threatened strike in August 1957 and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The Minister of Transport and Communications (Shri S. K. Patil): (a) Yes The National Federation of