

The season is slack in the North Eastern Region and an appropriate assessment can be made only after the new season commences in May-June.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Building for Ministry of Defence and Army Headquarters in New Delhi**

**2693. Shri Radha Mohan Singh:** Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of an 'Indian Pantagon' for housing the Ministry of Defence and Army Headquarters in New Delhi has been sanctioned; and

(b) if so, what will be its estimated cost and when and where will it be constructed?

**The Minister of Works, Housing Supply (Shri K. C. Reddy):** (a) and (b). An office building for the Ministry of Defence and the Army Headquarters is proposed to be constructed on plots Nos. 35 and 36, behind South Block. The plans and estimates for the building have not yet been finalised.

#### **Output of Jute Goods**

**2694. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a marked reduction in the total output of jute goods in India during February, 1961;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same; and

(c) what action has been taken to improve the conditions?

**The Minister of Industry (Shri Mauubhai Shah):** (a) Production in February, 1961 amounted to 77,400 tons compared with 86,000 tons in February, 1960.

(b) and (c). The fall in production was due to scaling of more looms and reduction in working

hours necessitated by shortage of raw jute. The position is expected to improve with an improvement in the Indian output of jute for which sustained efforts are being made.

#### **Future Trading in Jute**

**2695. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether future trading in jute and jute goods has been under suspension for quite long;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the suspension; and

(c) what are the prospects for its revival?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) Yes, Sir. Since 30th November, 1960.

(b) Due to shortage of raw jute abnormal conditions exist in the Jute market. To safeguard the market against bull squeeze and artificial rigging up of prices by speculative manipulation, trading in new hedge contracts after 30th November, 1961, has not been permitted.

(c) The question is under consideration.

#### **Fertilizer Corporation's Managing Director's Visit to U.A.R.**

**2696. Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Managing Director of the State-owned Fertilizer Corporation is going to visit the U.A.R. in response to an invitation extended by the President of that Republic;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) what is the purpose of his visit?

**The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra):** (a) to (c). After the visit of His Excellency the President of U.A.R. to Nangal Fertilizer Factory Shri B. C. Mukharji received an invitation