

Increasing Production of Jute

4676. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of jute has declined during the year 1982; if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(b) what measures are being taken to increase its production;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a suggestion has been made to the Centre to increase the price of raw jute from the ensuing season; and

(d) if so, what are the suggestions made and the action taken by Government for the safeguard of the cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The final estimate of production of raw jute for 1982-83 has not yet been issued. However, according to the preliminary estimates there is decline in the production of raw jute in some of the major producing States during 1982-83 as compared to the previous year. This is contributed to unfavourable weather conditions during the crop season.

(b) For increasing production of jute, the efforts of the State Governments are being supplemented by the Government of India through the Centrally Sponsored intensive Jute development Programme during the Sixth Plan period. The scheme provides financial assistance for certified seeds, setting tanks, seed drills and wheel noes, weedicides, demonstration extension services etc., which is shared equally by the Government of India and State Governments.

(c) and (d) The report is under examination.

Food Processing Units of NAFED

4677. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the food items canned and processed by National Agriculture cooperative Marketing Federation of India;

(b) whether NAFED has opened such processing and canned branches at other places in the country,

(c) if so, the name of those places, State-wise; and

(d) the programme of NAFED for 1983-84 in expanding its activities in processing food in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (BAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) Products processed and canned by NAFED include apples, mangoes, pineapples, tomatoes, oranges, pears, peaches, green peas and other vegetables.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Besides the multi-commodity fruits and vegetables processing unit at Delhi, NAFED has taken over two such units at Vellore in Tamil Nadu and Kushalnagar in Karnataka on lease from local cooperatives.

(d) NAFED has indicated that it is exploring the possibilities of introducing Aseptic Storage technology for expanding its activities in processed foods.

No. of Homeless People in India

4678. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state the number of homeless people in cities and villages in India in each State and Union Territories as per 1982 census?