

without leading to the accumulation of burdensome surpluses curtailment of production by developed exporting countries in periods of over supply on world markets; limiting the aim of export aids to making rice exports competitive with comparable grades being sold in international markets without under-cutting prevailing world prices; minimisation of recourse to export subsidies payments or restitutions on rice; consideration by Governments of the possibility of entering into longer term contracts for exports and imports of rice over a period of years; propagating greater use of rice in multilateral food aid schemes; adherence to the FAO Principles of Surplus Disposal for concessional or food aid transactions, etc. The Study Group endorsed the recommendations of the Working Party and agreed to request the Director General of FAO to transmit formally these recommendations to all member-governments with a substantial interest in international trade in rice; with the request that they be taken into account in formulating rice policies. The Study Group also *inter alia*, reiterated that (a) the objective of self-sufficiency in rice in developing countries is often part of the wider strategy of economic development and required special consideration in evolving remedial action, and that (b) adjustments in national rice policies by the governments concerned would be necessarily volutary in nature.

The suggestions made by the Study Group would be given due consideration when these are received from the Director General of FAO.

Acreage of Mexican Wheat

3625. SHRI N. E. HORO : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the State-wise acreage in India on which Mexican wheat has been grown this year and the extent to which the production has increased or is likely to increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : Information has been called for from the States/Union Territories and would be placed on the table of the Sabha when received.

Area Under Jute Production

3625. SHRI BISHWANATH JHUNJHUNWALA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the crop area of jute has increased during the last three years; and

(b) if so, to what extent and what steps have been taken to grow more jute outside Bengal also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) (a): The area under jute during the three years has been as under:--

Year	Area (000 hectares)
1968-69	526.7
1969-70	767.6
1970-71	750.1

(b) In order to step up the production of jute in the country, the Government of India have taken up a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the important jute growing States of Bihar, Assam, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Tripura in addition to West Bengal. Efforts are being made to popularise mesta in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The schemes include Special Package Programme aerial spraying of urea, subsidised distribution of certified improved jute seed and provision of relating tank facilities.