

have been given by the University Grants Commission for construction of hostels etc. during the last three years; and

(b) the names of the Colleges of Dibrugarh District whose applications are still pending with the University Grants Commission ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (PROF. D. P. YADAVA) : (a) Digboi College, Digboi.

(b) Naharkatiya College, Naharkatiya.

Archaeological Finds at Site of Reserve Bank of India office Building at Gauhati

1011 SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an important and significant archaeological discovery has been made at the site where the building of Reserve Bank of India Gauhati Office is proposed to be constructed ;

(b) if so, what is the progress made so far regarding excavation of the site ; and

(c) the amount spent so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (PROF. S. NURUL HASAN) : (a) and (b). During the course of digging the foundations of the new Reserve Bank building at Ambari in the city of Gauhati during March 1969 some old images and structures were discovered. In 1969, with the approval of the Archaeological Survey of India, the University of Gauhati and the State Government jointly conducted a trial excavation in which a good number of Hindu images and other relics including pottery assignable to about the 9th Century A. D. were

unearthed. During 1970-71 a regular excavation programme was undertaken in collaboration with the Deccan College, Poona by the University of Gauhati and the State Government and on the basis of the excavated finds which included brick structures and other relics like pottery, two structural periods were recognised, one dating from the 7th to 12th century A. D. and the other from the 13th to 17th century A. D. The University of Gauhati in collaboration with the State Department of Archaeology proposes to undertake horizontal excavation during this winter in continuation of the previous work.

(c) This excavation was financed by the Gauhati University and the State Government. The total expenditure incurred so far on these excavations is being ascertained from them.

Cotton Production during 1970-71 and 1971-72

1012. SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :  
SHRI P. M. MEHTA  
SHRI D. B. CHANDRA  
GOWDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cotton produced in the country during 1970-71 and 1971-72 ; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to increase the production of cotton in the country and reduce import ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE) : (a) The production of cotton during 1970-71 was 45.56 lakh bales. The official estimates of production during 1971-72 are not available.

(b) With a view to increasing the production of cotton and reducing the imports, the following steps are being taken by Central and State Governments :

(i) Intensification of research to evolve high yielding varieties ;

- (ii) Intensive Cultivation of cotton in selected areas under irrigation and assured rainfall conditions ;
- (iii) An Intensive Cotton District Programme in selected districts of important cotton growing States ;
- (iv) Development and Extension of Hybrid-4, a high yielding hybrid cotton.
- (v) Control of pests and diseases on campaign basis through ground/aerial spraying.
- (vi) Development of cotton under irrigated projects like Nagarjunasagar Project in Andhra Pradesh, Tungabhadra Project in Mysore and Rajasthan Canal in Rajasthan.

#### Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Marriage

1013. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Central Council for Family Planning had urged the Centre to raise the minimum age of legal marriage to check the birth rate in the country ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof , and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (PROF. D. P. CHATTO-PADHYAYA) (a) Yes.

(b) The Council in its meeting held in October, 1971 at Jaipur has resolved that (i) suitable measures be taken by the States and Voluntary Organisations to create a climate of opinion in favour of a higher age of marriage ; and (ii) Government of India may expedite the amendment

of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929, in terms of the Council's earlier resolutions on the subject.

(c) The question of amendment of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 is under active consideration of the Government.

#### Production of Cotton in Gujrat and Self-sufficiency in Cotton Production

1014. SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL :  
SHRI P. M. MEHTA :  
SHRI D. B. CHANDRA  
GOWDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a centrally sponsored scheme for maximum production of cotton in the important cotton growing States has not achieved good results in the Gujrat State in 1968-69 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether in 1970-71 it has achieved good results ;

(d) the total area covered in the State programme for cotton development in 1968-69 and 1970-71 ; and

(e) the steps being taken to reduce the import of cotton and make India self-sufficient in cotton production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHLE P. SHINDE) : (a) to (b) The targets and the achievements under the Centrally sponsored Programmes of cotton in Gujrat State during 1968-69 and 1970-71 are as follows .

Year	Target	Achievement
1968-69	54,000 hect.	53,584
1970-71	54,000 hect.	53,980

It would be seen that the targets laid down were almost achieved. In addition