

- (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 Gujarat 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

State Government have also taken up distribution of inputs under coordinated cotton development scheme. As a result of the steps taken under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes and the cotton development programmes of the State, the yield per hectare of cotton increased from 149 kgs in 1966-67 to 179 kgs. per hectare in 1970-71

(e) With a view to increasing the production of cotton the steps being taken by the Central and State Governments are

- (i) Intensification of research to evolve high yielding varieties.
- (ii) Intensive cultivation of cotton in selected areas under irrigation and assured rainfall conditions.
- (iii) The control of pests and diseases on campaign basis through ground and aerial spraying.
- (iv) Development and extension of hybrid-4 cotton a high yielding variety.
- (v) Development of cotton under irrigation projects in Nagarjunasagar project in Andhra Pradesh, Tungabhadra Project in Mysore and Rajasthan Canal.
- (vi) In addition to this an Intensive Cotton District Programme is being implemented from 1971-72 onwards in selected districts in the important cotton growing States

Ground Water Studies in Gujarat

1015 SHRI PRABHUDAS PATIL
SHRI P M MEHTA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether Hydrogeological survey units were set up in Gujarat and other States for undertaking systematic ground water studies in 1968-69,

(b) if so, what extent the ground water survey has been made and

(c) if so, how far the studies have proved helpful to the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF SHYER SINGH) (a) Hydrogeological survey units were set up in Gujarat for undertaken systematic groundwater studies in March, 1970.

(b) About 4,000 sq miles area has been covered under the systematic groundwater survey

(c) Groundwater studies carried out have helped the State in systematic exploitation of ground water through wells and tubewells. The percentage of failure of wells has decreased and has enabled tapping only fresh water aquifers by sealing saline zones in areas where groundwater development could not be taken up due to presence of saline water. The Groundwater studies have also provided detailed information about the depletion of groundwater level in some of the areas of the state and this will help in safe-guarding the over-exploitation of groundwater. So far the State groundwater cell has helped the state in clearing 14 areas for Agricultural Refinance Corporation/IDA schemes and 10 Rural Electrification schemes for electrification of pump sets.

The required information is being collected from other States and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha as soon as it is received.

Report of Bhagavati Committee for Inland Waterways Development

1016 SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA
Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 610 on the 28th May, 1971 regarding the Inland Water Transport Committee report and state when the remaining schemes referred in part (c) of the reply are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR)
Out of the remaining schemes in question, 4 schemes costing Rs 35.39 lakhs (as against Rs 36.37 lakhs estimated by