

relaxation of efforts or complacency in the area of pest and disease control.

Result of New System of Issue of Foodgrains and Sugar by F.C.I. Depots to Fair Price Shops in Delhi

6889. SHRI RANABHADUR SINGH:

SHRI RAMAVATAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ever since the new system to 'streamline' operation of supply of foodgrains and sugar to fair price shops at the godowns of the Food Corporation of India in Delhi was introduced, much of the benefits have remained elusive; and

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):

(a) and (b). The new system introduced in Delhi Region for distribution of foodgrains is reported to be working satisfactorily.

Better Bus Service in the Capital

6690 SHRI M S. PURTY:

SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting to provide better bus service in the Capital was convened by the Ministry of Transport and Delhi Transport Corporation; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held on 16th March 1974 to discuss matters relating to Delhi Transport Corporation. The meeting, which was presided over by Minister of Shipping and Transport, was attended by the Chief Executive Councillor, Delhi Administration, Lt. Governor, Delhi and officers of Ministry of Shipping and Transport and D.T.C.

(b) The following main decisions were reached:—

(i) D.T.C. should introduce, as early as possible, feeder services to the newly started Green Line bus services.

(ii) D.T.C. should acquire additional buses and improve maintenance of the existing fleet to enable it to place more buses on the road.

(iii) Special attention should be paid to bus services for rural areas.

Funds Allotted to Development of Agriculture in Assam

6691. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:
SHRI TARUN GOGOI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Assam has not been provided with sufficient funds during the last five year plan so far for the development of agriculture;

(b) whether that is the main reasons why State Government could not develop agriculture properly;

(c) whether the Union Government had decided to give much attention to the State during the Fifth Five year plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the scheme that will be undertaken in the State during the period in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE)

(a) The expenditure during the

First, Second and Third Five Year Plans and approved outlays for the Fourth Plan of Assam for agricultural programmes, community development and cooperation, irrigation and power and total for all sectors are given below:—

(Rs. in million)

Programme	First Plan	Second Plan	Third Plan	Fourth Plan (approved outlays)
Agricultural programme	46.5	73.8	122.0	380.8
Community Development & Co-operation	2.0	76.4	99.1	75.2
Irrigation & Power	46.1	68.3	573.7	660.9
Total for all sectors	205.1	544.8	1324.4	2060.0

It would be seen from the above statement that in view of the dominant position occupied by agriculture in Assam's economy high priority was accorded in the Fourth Plan to agricultural development. Special programmes for rational land use, improved cropping pattern, irrigation, use of fertilisers, improved

seeds, plant protection, increased credit facilities, flood control measures etc. were incorporated in the Fourth Plan.

(b) Agricultural crop production in Assam has shown some improvement over the years, as would be seen from the following figures:

Period	Rice (In lakh tonnes)	Total Foodgrains (In lakh tonnes)	Jute (In lakh bales)
1. Average for 5 years of Third Plan (1961-62 to 1965-66)	18.06	18.57	9.21
2. Average for 3 Annual Plan years (1966-67 to 1968-69)	19.96	20.51	9.40
3. 1969-70	20.58	21.19	11.11
4. 1970-71	21.10	21.72	9.86
5. 1971-72	20.55	21.54	11.96
6. 1972-73 (Final estimate)	23.23	25.53	10.51

NOTE:—For the sake of comparability, the above figures relate to the old state of Assam i.e., present States of Assam and Meghalaya and the Union Territory of Mizoram.

It is, of course, true that the rate of agricultural progress needs to be accelerated. At present the inadequacy of infra-structural facilities is an important factor inhibiting economic/agricultural growth in Assam and this needs to be improved.

(c) and (d). The Union Government as also the State Government of Assam have accorded high priority for the development of agriculture in the Fifth Five Year Plan. To step up agricultural production in the Fifth Five Year Plan, the main elements of the strategy proposed to be adopted by the State Government would be as under:

- (i) to bring about a change in the land use pattern so as to bring greater area under high yielding varieties of crops vis-a-vis traditional varieties;
- (ii) to raise productivity through the supply of better and improved inputs such as improved seed, fertilisers, pesticides, etc.,
- (iii) adoption of a three-crop cultivation pattern with a short duration crop in between the two major crops;
- (iv) change of cropping pattern especially in the flood affected areas to eliminate too much dependence on flood prone crops; and
- (v) provision of greater irrigation facilities to reduce dependence on monsoon and to facilitate production of H Y V. and rabi crops.

Various schemes have been included in the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan of the State Government for implementing the above strategy.

Indo Yemen Cultural Pact

6692. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Yemen have signed a cultural pact in the month of March, 1974;

(b) if so, what are the contents of the pact.

(c) whether large number of such pacts were signed in the first three months of 1974, and

(d) if so, to what extent these cultural pacts have benefited the countries concerned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. A Cultural Agreement was signed with People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on 17th March, 1974 in New Delhi.

(b) The Agreement envisages development and promotion of contacts between the two countries in the fields of art and culture, education, science and technology, mass media of information and education, sports and games and journalism. Copies of the Agreement are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Only one Cultural Agreement was signed in the first three months of 1974 i.e. with People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

(d) Cultural Agreements lay down the broad principles of cooperation between the countries concerned and provide a framework for specific time-bound exchange programmes. These