

की गई है, क्या वह सारे देश में चालू की गई है और यदि कोई एरियाज़ छोड़ दिये गए हैं, तो वे कौन से एरियाज़ हैं ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Yes, Sir; this integrated production programme takes into account all the cotton-producing States, including Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know what is the total quantity of long-staple cotton that we had imported and what steps will be taken to produce it in our country?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Our idea is to become self-sufficient, but it will take some time. The House very well knows that we have to import some long-staple cotton from Egypt as well as from USA under PL 480.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: What was the quantity imported last year?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is 5 to 6 lakh bales.

Shri P. R. Patel: May I know whether the price of cotton in our country is lower than the prevailing price of such cotton in other countries?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In regard to other countries, I am not in a position to say. In our country, recently the ceiling price for fine Moglai Jarilla has been raised by Rs. 35 and correspondingly for other varieties also.

Shri P. R. Patel: My question was not that. My question is whether the price of cotton in our country is lower than that of the cotton of similar quality of other countries?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It may be lower.

Shri D. J. Naik: May I know in which of the districts of the various States the package programme has been taken up in regard to cotton?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Krishna and Guntur in Andhra Pradesh, Ganganagar in Rajasthan, Nanded in Maharashtra and some district in Madras; it is a long list.

Shri Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether we are able to increase the yield of cotton in areas other than package scheme districts?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As I have submitted in the main answer, there are two main schemes-integrated develop-

ment programme and package programme. The integrated development programme covers all the districts in all the States whereas the package programme covers only those districts where there is scope for increased and intensive development. The two schemes cover the entire country. The package programme covers only those districts wherein we can get the maximum outturn.

श्री बड़े : क्या यह सच है कि कई स्टेट्स में काटन कंट्रोल आर्डर लागू कर दिया गया है जिस के अनुसार एक नया पैटर्न लागू कर दिया गया है कुछ डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स के लिए कि वहां काटन जरूर बोई जाए चाहे सायल उसके लिए सूटेबल हो या न हो ? यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सही है कि उसकी वजह से काश्तकारों ने काटन बोना बन्द कर दिया है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: I am not aware.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is about evolving a new pattern of cotton.

Shri Bade: Some pattern has been made compulsory for some districts but that pattern is not suitable for that soil. Therefore, the cultivators are finding it difficult because they have to sow that variety.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have not got any such report.

Shri Kashi Ram Gupta: Is the Minister aware of the fact that in Maharashtra cotton styled as long-staple cotton gives a yarn of only 30 counts?

Shri Shinde: It is not a correct statement. The East India Cotton Association has submitted one report on that line. That report is based on trade samples. It is not based on samples from producing areas.

Reclamation of Chambal Ravines

*481. **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a few months back Government sent General Manager of Suratgarh Farm, and one eminent Botanist to the Chambal valley areas with a view to survey the ravines and to prepare a scheme for the reclamation of the same for the subsequent rehabilitation of ex-dacoits over the reclaimed land; and

(b) if so, the recommendations of the team in this regard?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) and (b). Yes; the late Major-General Mahadeo Singh, then General Manager, Central Mechanised Farm, Suratgarh, and Dr. K. N. Kaul, Director, National Botanic Gardens, Lucknow, inspected a portion of eroded lands bordering the Jumna river in Kanpur district in U.P. in April, 1963, to consider the possibilities of setting up a large size mechanised farm in that area. Major General Mahadeo Singh did not submit any report. However, Dr. Kaul has made certain recommendations. A statement showing the recommendations made by him is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library. See No. 2063/63].

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: What is the approximate area of the Chambal ravines in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and what is the rate of annual increase in this land due to erosion and other factors?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The question of reclamation of ravines is a very big question. It is estimated that about 5 million acres are accounted for by the ravines along Chambal Jumna basin, 3.5 million acres in UP and .8 million acres each in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: May I know whether any rough estimate has been prepared as to what would be the cost per acre for the reclamation of the Chambal ravines for cultivation purposes?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Some survey has been made but the cost has been found to be very prohibitive. At the same time, we are attempting to do something in this matter.

श्री बड़े : चम्बल के रेवाइन्ड में कितना खर्चा सेंटर करने वाला है और मध्य प्रदेश

की तरफ से कितना खर्चा किया जाने वाला है और कितने डाकू वहां बसाये जायेंगे?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It was considered by the team which has been appointed to look into the question of setting up a large mechanised farm and it has been of the view that the cost of reclamation would come to about Rs. 600 to 900 per acre, which is prohibitive.

Shri Bade: That is not my question. What is the subsidy that the Central Government is prepared to give to the Madhya Pradesh Government for reclamation because the Madhya Pradesh Government is not in a position to foot the bill by itself? This is a very important question.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Have you got any information on that point?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As the scheme involves expenditure in crores of rupees, it will not be possible either for the Central Government or the Madhya Pradesh Government to undertake it now. In the Second Plan we had provided Rs. 77 lakhs and according to that scheme Madhya Pradesh was to reclaim about 1,500 acres. For that, a sum of Rs. 4.66 lakhs was set apart.

Shri Kapur Singh: May I know whether Government have considered the obvious desirability of rehabilitating these reclaimed gentlemen at some place other than that which was previously the scene of their somewhat unorthodox activities?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Apart from the reclamation of ravines for agricultural purposes, dacoit menace can also be controlled by this. That matter is engaging our attention. As I have already indicated, we have made some provision in the Third Plan for survey of ravine areas under the Centrally-sponsored programmes for which 100 per cent subsidy will be given by the Central Government.

Shri Kapur Singh: My question has not been understood at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It does not arise out of this.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: May I know if Government contemplate taking up reclamation of Chambal ravine along with river basin scheme in the multi-purpose schemes which are being taken in hand all over the country?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This question is about Chambal only.

Shri Sham Lal Saraf: Its basin is also part of the Chambal river.

Shri A. M. Thomas: There are flood control measures, soil conservation schemes, and other schemes intended to increase the area of cultivation are there. But the reclamation of the area under the ravines is a huge task, and thousands of crores of rupees would have to be spent.

Shri S. N. Chaturvedi: If the cost of reclamation is prohibitive, may I know why large-scale afforestation of this area is not being undertaken by the Government?

Shri A. M. Thomas: That is one of the steps that is being undertaken.

Shri D. J. Naik: May I know whether any scheme of reclamation of Chambal ravines for rehabilitation of landless labourers is under consideration?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As I have indicated in the main answer, this is a subject of vital concern to all of us. I am aware of that fact. But, at the same time, we have to take into account the cost also. The reclamation of one acre will entail an expenditure of Rs 600 to 900. I do not think this House will sanction that amount.

Shri Radhelal Vyas: In view of the fact that the very serious dacoit menace is a long standing one, may I know whether Government has got any scheme which may be phased over a certain period so that the huge amount that is required for the pro-

ject can be spent over a period of years? In that case, a solution can be found to this long-standing problem which is defying solution.

Shri A. M. Thomas: I have indicated in my answer itself that the Government is conscious of the problem. Government is also conscious of the fact that it will assist the solving of the dacoit menace. But, at the same time, the cost element has also to be considered. Then, it is not possible to have this even on a phased programme unless we are prepared to spend thousands of crores of rupees. All the same, we have made some beginning.

श्री श्रीकारलाल बेरवा : राजस्थान में चम्बल एरिया की वजह से काफी डकैतियां होती हैं। इस योजना के अन्दर चम्बल के बीहड़ों को लिया गया है या नहीं लिया गया है और नहीं लिया गया है तो क्या लेने का विचार है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: As far as Rajasthan is concerned, under the Third Plan Rs. 10 lakhs has been set apart to reclaim about 3,000 acres.

Electricity Rates

*483. **Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the observations made by the State Ministers of Agriculture at the conference held in New Delhi on 29th August, 1963 that there should be a change in the present approach to electricity rates charged for power used for agricultural purposes; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to reduce the rates, in the interests of increased agricultural production?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shindi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India have already been in correspondence with the State Governments in regard to