

staff are accordingly being associated with Norwegian counter-parts and work in close cooperation with them.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign Aid for Agricultural Development in Various States

2209. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of aid received from foreign countries for the development of agriculture in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh during the last five years; and

(b) the amount utilised so far State-wise and the rate of agricultural growth recorded as a consequence of the aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as soon as the information is ready.

Land Under High Yielding Varieties Cultivation Schemes

2210. SHRI KIRIT BIKRAM DEB BURMAN:
SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme to bring about 14.5 million acres of land in the different States under the High Yielding Varieties Cultivation Scheme during the current Kharif Season;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the scheme, indicating the area to be brought under the scheme and the estimated cost of their schemes and also the quantity of fertilisers needed for the purpose;

(c) the details of the proposals, if any, sponsored by the Tripura Government for promotion of High Yielding Varieties Cultivation and the extent of their approval by Government; and

(d) the allocations sanctioned for the purpose and the amount of Central aid likely to be given for the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) The Central Teams which had visited the State last year to finalise the agricultural programmes for 1967-68, had proposed a tentative all-India target of 14.5 million acres under the High Yielding Varieties Programme for the Kharif season, 1968 on the basis of their discussions with individual States. This target has since been revised to 13.11 million acres on the basis of the discussions of the Central Teams which recently visited the States to finalise the 1968-69 agricultural production programmes.

(b) The State-wise details of 13.11 million acres are given in the attached statement. Quantities of fertilisers needed for the targeted acreage on the basis of the recommended doses are also shown in the statement, laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1555/68].

With regard to the estimated cost of the programme, the only item involving expenditure on the part of the Government is appointment of additional staff in the districts covered by the High Yielding Varieties Pro-

gramme. The State Governments have taken steps to determine the requirements of additional staff according to local need and appoint the same on a phased basis. Estimates of cost involved will be furnished by the States after the same have been worked out. So far as the cost of various inputs is concerned, it is to be met by the participating cultivators themselves, either with their own resources or with the loans obtainable from the Governmental or co-operative agencies.

(c) and (d). The Government of Tripura have a programme of implementing the High-Yielding Varieties Programme in two out of the six intensive blocks in the Territory. An area of 5,000 acres will be covered under the high-yielding varieties programme during the current year as against 1,200 acres covered during 1967-68.

During 1968-69, a total outlay of Rs. 35 lakhs has been approved by the Working Group on Agriculture for Intensive Agricultural Programme (including H.V.P.) for Tripura Administration. In connection with the high-yielding varieties scheme, the Government of Tripura will be appointing additional staff at different levels. The cost involved on the appointment of additional staff will be borne entirely by the Government of India, Tripura, being a Union Territory.

Public Call offices and direct Telephone connections in Bikaner Division

2211. SHRI P. L. BARUPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of requests made in the Bikaner Division of Rajasthan for opening Public Call Offices and direct telephone connections during the years 1967-68 and 1968-69 so far;

(b) the number of requests granted and the number of requests which have been refused;

(c) the reasons for not providing telephone connections in spite of repeated requests made by traders of prominent markets of Jetsar, Vijayanagar, Pilibanga and Sadoul town in District Sriganganagar; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken to accede to their requests in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL):

(a) The number of requests received in the Bikaner Sub-Division (Bikaner is only a Sub-Division and not a Division in the Rajasthan Circle, Telecommunication Wing) for providing direct telephones during 1967-68 was 506, and between 1-4-1968 to 25-7-1968, the number was 148. Regarding public call offices, no formal requests are necessary, and the Department progressively opens such offices on its own initiative, wherever feasible and remunerative or on loss basis in conformity with the Government policy at certain categories of stations based on considerations of administrative importance, population, remoteness etc.

(b) The number of requests granted for direct telephones in 1967-68 was 344 and during the period 1-4-68 to 25-7-68, 73 more such requests were granted.

During 1967-68, 5 Public Call Offices were opened. One more sanctioned Public Call Office is pending installation.

(c) and (d). At Jetsar, there is no Telephone exchange yet. A 50 line small Automatic Exchange has been sanctioned and telephone connections required at this place will be provided as soon as the SAX is installed.

At Vijayanagar (Shri Vijayanagar) 15PCO extensions have been provided to the public from the PCO switch board. A scheme has been sanctioned to convert this into a regular Exchange (SAX). More connections can