

factories. The details of the process are given in Annexure-I laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2245/68.]

(b) It is not possible to work out comparative costs as the cost of sugar manufacture depends upon a number of factors which vary from factory to factory and within the same factory from time to time.

(c) A statement is given in Annexure-II laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2245/68.]

**DIFFERENT ESTIMATES OF FOODGRAINS PRODUCTION MADE BY CENTRE AND STATES**

1529. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH

CHAUDHARY :

SHRI J. M. BISWAS :

SHRI O. P. TYAGI :

SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

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

(a) the reasons for different estimates of foodgrains production made by Centre and States; and

(b) The steps, if any, taken or proposed to be taken to remedy the discrepancy between the two estimates ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) :** (a) The estimates of area and production of various crops issued by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture are generally based on information furnished by the State Governments. However, during recent years adjustments had to be made in some of the States' estimates, in some cases, to allow for :

- (i) Under-estimation in the Final (harvesting stage) Estimate for incomplete reporting under the existing system of crop estimation;
- (ii) Incomplete reporting in the area under summer crops which were hitherto not important in certain States and which have assumed importance during recent years under the new strategy for agricultural development.

(b) The problem is under the consideration of the Government of India as part of the overall question of effecting improvements in the estimation of foodgrains output in the country.

**BRANCH POST OFFICES**

1530. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether proposals to have one whole time local Post Master and one peon in a Branch Post Office were under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, result thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider these proposals with a view to reduce the running costs ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) :** (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No. This will lead to additional costs.

**METAL GODOWN**

1531. SHRI HEM RAJ : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of metal godowns set up so far in the rural areas; and

(b) the terms on which they have been supplied to the farmers and traders ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) :** (a) Bins have been set up at 20 centres in U.P. and action is in progress for setting up bins at a number of centres in several other States.

(b) The supply is made to the farmers and the Cooperatives by the industry and under Freedom From Hunger Campaign either free of cost or on a subsidised basis. The Government renders only technical assistance.