

season was received from the States of U.P., Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana. Indents were, however, received by the National Seeds Corporation from U.P. and Rajasthan for supply of foundation seeds of recent amber-coloured wheat varieties and the following quantities were supplied by the Corporation :

U.P.	—	250 quintals
Rajasthan	—	325 quintals

(c) On the basis of targets of coverage under the High-Yielding Varieties Programme accepted by the State Governments for Rabi-Summer 1968-69 and the yardsticks agreed to by them, an additional production of about 9.68 million tonnes of foodgrains is estimated for the whole country.

Year	Area in '000 hectare		Yield per hectare in kg.	
	Superior long	Long	Superior	Long
1965-66	191.0	1590.9	130.0	111.0
1966-67	185.9	1788.5	148.0	107.0

The official estimates for the years 1967-78 have not so far been released.

(b) For stepping up cotton production, more particularly of long staple cottons, the Government of India is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which incentives in the form of subsidy on plant protection chemicals and equipments and technical guidance are being given to cultivators.

#### Irregular mail carriage to and from Pandharpur

2922. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether representations have been received from citizens of Mangalwedha in Sholapur District about the irregular mail carriage to and from Pandharpur by the Mysore Government Transport Service ;

(b) whether Government are considering the question of entrusting the responsibility of carriage of mails to the Maharashtra State Transport service who are running 12 regular services a day in the interests of the citizens ; and

#### Cultivation of Long Staple Cotton

2921. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the area at present under long staple cotton cultivation and the per acre yield ; and

(b) the action taken to encourage growers to take up cultivation of long staple cotton in the country in order to get better yields per acre and to reduce the burden of imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The area under long staple cotton and yield per hectare for 1965-66 and 1966-67 are given below :—

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Breakdowns of Inter-State Communications

2923. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :  
SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that with a view to reducing the number of inter-State breakdowns of communications which frequently happen due to overload, Government have finalised a scheme whereby the break-downs will not hamper the communications between the States as hithertofore ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) when it will be put into operation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) Yes. At present communications between important towns is mainly dependent of one single medium of communication. In order to cater for service during the inevitable interruptions to this media, alternative systems have been planned. After the implementation of the scheme ordinary Breakdowns will not disrupt communications.

(b) Schemes already sanctioned and in progress :

1. Delhi-Bareilly-Lucknow Coaxial Link.
2. Lucknow-Kanpur Coaxial Link.
3. Lucknow-Gorakhpur-Patna-Asansol Microwave Link.
4. Patha-Katihar Microwave Link.
5. Delhi-Jaipur-Indore-Dhulia - Bombay Microwave Link, with Spurs to Indore and Ahmedabad.
6. Poona-Secunderabad Microwave Link.
7. Delhi-Bhatinda-Jullundur Microwave Link.
8. Bombay-Dhulia-Nagpur Coaxial Link.
9. Bombay-Dhulia-Nagpur-Raipur-Sambhalpur-Jamshedpur-Kharagpur Microwave Link.
10. Calcutta-Cuttack-Vijayawada-Madras and Vijayawada-Secunderabad Coaxial Link.
11. Coimbetore-Ernakulam-Trivandrum Coaxial Link.

*II. Schemes included in the Fourth Plan—no: yet sanctioned.*

1. Delhi-Agra-Kanpur-Allahabad-Jabalpur-Nagpur Microwave Link.
2. Nagpur-Secunderabad-Bangalore Coaxial Link.
3. Bombay-Panjim-Mangalore-Bangalore-Madras Microwave Link.
4. Mangalore-Kozhikode-Ernakulam-Trivandrum Microwave Link.
5. Madras-Pondicherry-Trivandrum Coaxial Link.

(c) During the course of the next five to seven years, provided necessary foreign exchange is made available.

#### **Agricultural Credit Societies in Orissa**

2924. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of agricultural credit societies in Orissa to-day ;

(b) the total funds set apart for providing agricultural credit to the farmers in Orissa in 1966-67, 1967-68 and 1968-69, year-wise ;

(c) whether these funds had been fully utilised ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Co-operative Credit to Agriculturists**

2925. SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether co-operative credit to cultivators in the country is on land-holding pattern and is not related to production ; and

(b) if so, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) and (b). The main emphasis of co-operative credit to cultivators is on production. Short-term credit is to be given under the Crop Loan System on the basis of the assessment of the requirements for the area to be cultivated with reference to the scale of finance prescribed for growing different crops. Medium and long-term loans are given for productive farm investments with reference to the actual requirements for the specific purpose and subject to repaying capacity.