

jute by double cropping in irrigated areas in the States of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. The main strategy is to increase per acre yield in the jute growing areas rather than aim at more areas under jute which presents practical difficulties, primarily, because of competition with food crops.

*Statement*

*Area under Jute (State-wise) 1957-68 (final)*

State	Area
(Thousand hectares)	
Assam	146.0
Bihar	157.9
Orissa	50.4
Uttar Pradesh	22.9
West Bengal	496.0
Tripura	12.1
<b>Total :</b>	<b>885.3</b>

**Nepalese Rice for India**

2961. SHRI D. C. SHARMA :  
SHRI BENI SHANKER  
SHARMA :  
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :  
SHRI RANJIT SINGH :  
SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

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

(a) whether talks were held recently with Nepal for purchase of Nepalese rice for India ;

(b) if so, the conclusions arrived at ; and

(c) how the price compares with the prices offered by Burma, Australia and Thailand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

**Import of Rice**

2962. SHRI D. C. SHARMA :  
SHRI BENI SHANKER  
SHARMA :

SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :  
SHRI RANJIT SINGH :

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

(a) whether it is proposed to import 400,000 tonnes of rice during 1969-70 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that rice output during the current year is 2,000,000 tonnes more as compared to the previous year ; and

(c) if so, the justification for the import of rice ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) :

(a) Arrangements have been made for the import of 2,83,000 metric tons of rice during 1969. Some further purchases are likely to be made but the total quantity that will be purchased this year has not yet been decided.

(b) Firm estimates of production of rice during 1968-69 have not yet become available. In the absence of firm estimates, it is not possible to say whether production of rice in the current year will be higher than that of last year.

(c) Our imports are not only to meet the requirements of public distribution system but building up a buffer stock which is necessary to meet unforeseen contingencies to stabilize prices.

**Employment of Local Population in Private Sector**

2963. SHRI D. C. SHARMA :  
SHRI BENI SHANKER  
SHARMA :  
SHRI HARDAYAL  
DEVGUN :  
SHRI RANJIT SINGH :  
SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have sought the help of the All India Organization of employers to ensure an adequate share of jobs in the private sector for the local population ;

(b) whether State Labour Ministers have also been requested to use their good offices with private concerns in the matter ; and