

(In million kgs)

(c) Production in 1968	400.87
Production in 1969 (Estimated)	393.55

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The fall in production in 1969 as compared to 1968 is mostly attributable to the reduced production in West Bengal on account of a prolonged strike of tea garden workers in August last year, during the peak season for the manufacture of teas.

The following schemes are already in operation for increasing overall production, reducing costs and improving quality :

- (i) Replantation Subsidy Scheme.
- (ii) Tea Plantation Finance Scheme.
- (iii) Tea Machinery Hire Purchase Scheme.

#### Import of Cotton

564. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of cotton imported into India during the year ending on the 31st March, 1969 ;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a great demand from the importers for importing more cotton during the current year ;

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto ; and

(d) whether there is any scheme to supplement the import in future by indigenous production ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) 7.25 lakh bales.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Cotton requirements during the cotton year 1969-70 are in excess of the availability of indigenous and imported cotton and Government have allowed import of additional quantity of cotton and staple fibre to meet the situation.

(d) As a long term measure steps have been taken to enlarge and intensify the programme for development of cotton production in the country.

#### Pak. War-Postures Against India on Eastern Wing

565. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO :  
SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :  
SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA :  
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :  
SHRI TRIDIB KUMAR CHAUDHURI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have urged Pakistan to withdraw its forces from along the Punarbhaba river and demolish the bunkers and trenches ;

(b) if so, the reaction of Pakistan over it ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Pakistan is making war preparations against India ; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRAPAL SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Measures to establish peace in this area have been agreed to by both sides and as a result tension has subsided. Government have nevertheless taken steps to meet any situation should that be necessary.

#### Alleged British Connivance at Invasion of Kashmir by Pakistan

566. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have seen the news items which appeared in the *Indian Express* on the 5th January, 1970 regarding the British connivance at invasion of Kashmir ; and

(b) if so, the full facts and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Government have seen certain comments relating to the role of some British officers in the Kashmir operations, in the book "Slender was the Thread", written by Lt. Gen L. P. Sen, D.S.O. (Retired).

(b) Government have no comments to