

Andaman. 500 acres of land have been planted with rubber.

A commercial plantation of rubber over 6000 acres is under implementation in Katchal. 550 acres have been planted up-to now ; about 800 acres will be planted during the sowing season of 1971.

Soil Survey :

Soil surveys have been conducted over 5850 acres. In all, about, 3,000 acres have been found fit for paddy cultivation and plantation crops.

Roads :

A scheme for the construction of 15 kilometers of roads in Little Andaman Island during the Fourth Plan period has been sanctioned and is under implementation.

Other programmes :

Other Ministries of the Central Government are also undertaking programmes for the development of the Islands, more noteworthy of which are schemes for development of fisheries, jetties, roads, sea and air transport etc.

Settlement of population :

3. The total number of families moved to Andamans so far under the Accelerated Development Programme is indicated below :—

<i>Name of Island/ Place</i>	<i>No. of families moved so far</i>
1. Betapur in Middle Andman.	339
2. Rubber Research-cum Development Station (Burma Repatriates).	37
3. Neil.	175
4. Great Nicobar (Ex-Servicemen).	100
5. Little Andaman.	48
Total	699

World Bank Appraisal for Assistance to Telecommunication Schemes

4991. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a World Bank 'appraisal mission' led by Mr. I.A. Newstead recently visited India and had discussions with the officials of the Communications Ministry and the Posts and Telegraphs Board for providing additional assistance of 75 million dollars for telecommunication schemes during the last two years of the Fourth Plan ;

(b) if so, the results of the talks held and the details of the schemes for which the assistance is being provided ; and

(c) whether there is provision for Technical Assistance also ; if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) No final decision has been made known so far. The assistance sought for will broadly consist of foreign exchange support for raw materials and components required by the Government Telecommunication Factories and import of Critical items of stores and equipment.

(c) Yes, the details are yet to be finalised.

Details of Fresh Agreement Under PL-480

4992. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA :
SHRI MAYAVAN :

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

(a) whether Government of India propose to enter into a New PL-480 agreement in the near future ; if so, the details thereof ;

(b) the names of commodities which are likely to be imported under this agreement ;

(c) the quantity of each of these commodities likely to be imported ; and

(d) the total value of commodities to be supplied under this new agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (d). It is proposed to execute a further Agreement under the PL-480 with the Government of the United States. The commodities likely to be covered are wheat, cotton and soyabean oil. Since the details of the agreement are yet to be finalised it is not possible to say, as yet the quantity of each of these commodities that are likely to be made available under the new agreement or the value thereof.

Extension of Cereals Cultivation and its Effect on Acreage Under Pulses and Oilseeds

4993. SHRI DEVINDER SINGH GARCHA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the extension of cereal cultivation was cutting into acreage under pulses and oilseeds ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether in spite of extension agencies urging farmers to rotate cereals with groundnuts or pulses as a short crop, there was growing tendency to grow cereals crops one after another ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) the steps Government propose to avoid possibility of decline in production of pulses and oilseeds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB

SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir. The variations in area from year to year may be due to seasonal conditions at the sowing time.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such report has been received.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government are aware of the seriousness of the situation. The steps taken include package approach in the cultivation of oilseeds and pulses. Centrally sponsored schemes have been sanctioned for the cultivation of oilseeds in potential areas. Besides, efforts are being made to increase area under pulses through introduction of short duration pulses under multiple cropping and inter-cropping in major long duration crops. Research Scientists are doing their best to evolve short duration High Yielding Varieties of pulses and oil seeds.

राजस्थान की रेगिस्तानी भूमि को खेती योग्य बनाने के लिए इसरायल द्वारा सहायता का प्रस्ताव

4994. श्री राम गोपाल शालवाले :
श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :

क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान इसरायल के वाणिज्य-दूत के उस वक्तव्य की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें उन्होंने राजस्थान की रेगिस्तानी भूमि को खेती योग्य बनाने में सहायता देने के लिए इसरायली विशेषज्ञों की सेवाएं उपलब्ध करने का प्रस्ताव किया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार करने में सरकार को क्या कठिनाई है ?

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अन्नासाहिब शिन्दे) : (क) तथा (ख). राजस्थान की रेगिस्तानी भूमि को खेती योग्य बनाने के लिए