

[*Translation*]**Fall in Production of Cotton**

1657. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

SHRI MADHAVRAO PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per hectare productivity of cotton is gradually decreasing;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the extent to which the cotton production per hectare has come down during the last three years; and

(c) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The productivity of cotton has shown a rising trend, albeit with fluctuations due to variations in weather conditions.

(c) To increase productivity and production of cotton, the Government is implementing centrally sponsored programme, viz., Intensive Cotton Development Programme in which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements, etc. Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing minimum support prices and making arrangements for procurement through the Cotton Corporation of India.

[*English*]**Setting up of Film Museum**

1658. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:

SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:

SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a film museum in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the locations proposed for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) to (c) A preliminary proposal to set up a National Museum of Moving Images was submitted by an association called the United Producers Forum. The Forum has been requested to submit a detailed project report for the proposed Museum.

Soil Erosion in Gujarat

1659. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA :

SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the rivers causing excessive soil erosion in Gujarat;

(b) the total land affected as a result thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to check the erosion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Soil erosion along the banks and beds of rivers is a natural phenomena. No serious river erosion problem has been reported in Gujarat.

(b) Data on land affected by soil erosion are not maintained by the Central Government.

(c) Measures for checking soil erosion including their planning and implementation come within the purview of the State Government.

Separate Agro Channel for Karnataka

1660. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to provide a separate agro channel on Doordarshan for educating farmers on crop-planning, market and price trend; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All programme matters relating to Doordarshan fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati who have intimated that due to resource constraints it has not been found possible to start a separate Agro Channel. Prasar Bharati have further intimated that Doordarshan regularly telecasts agriculture related programmes on its national channel as well as on regional channels.

[*Translation*]**Bungling in Post Office**

1661. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of theft of stamps of about one crore rupees had come to light in Kanpur (U.P.);

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government had conducted any inquiry into the matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;