

addition to the strengthening of existing 19 Central Surveillance and 13 Central Plant Protection Stations.

(b) and (c). The names of the States and districts where these Stations will be set up are to be finalised after the approval of financial outlays/scheme by the Planning Commission and others concerned for the Seventh Plan period.

(d) The criteria for opening of Central Pest and Disease Surveillance Stations are :—

- (i) Areas prone to pest/disease incidence are given precedence.
- (ii) The dry land, tribal and backward areas which are not covered under the Surveillance programme of the State Governments; and
- (iii) Recommendations of the State Governments.

#### **Food Production *VIS-A-VIS* Population Growth**

\*174. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of growth of food production *vis-a-vis* population growth;

(b) if food production is higher, what are the causes of decline in per capita availability of foodgrains in the country; and

(c) steps proposed to be taken to bring a balance between the two ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) to (c). The compound growth rates in foodgrains production and their net availability during the period 1970-71 to 1983-84 work out to 2.64 and 2.46 per cent per annum respectively. As compared to this, the annual growth rate in population during the same period is estimated at 2.27 per cent. This clearly shows that the rates of growth of foodgrains production and their net availability are higher than the rate of growth of population.

It may, however, be added that a

further rise in the per capita availability of foodgrains is envisaged through increasing the country's production and productivity of various crops like rice, wheat, other cereals and pulses. Strategies for further increasing the production and productivity of foodgrains during the Seventh Five Year Plan include timely supply of critical inputs such as irrigation, fertilisers, HYV seeds, plant protection, etc. Appropriate area specific programmes, remunerative prices to farmers for their produce, easy availability of credit, research support and transfer of technology, etc. are also being provided.

#### **Parliament Session in South**

\*175. SHRI AMARSINGH RATHAWA : SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position in regard to holding a Parliament session in South; and

(b) if it is not possible to hold a session in South whether Government will consider to hold it in Western Region, particularly in Gujarat in Gandhinagar ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). At present the Government is not thinking to hold any Parliament Session outside Delhi.

#### **Production of Sugarcane in Maharashtra**

\*176. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the last two years the production of sugarcane in Maharashtra has been registering a decline;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government are likely to introduce to check this declining trend, particularly when Maharashtra is the premier sugar producing State of our country and it is likely so affect her national economy too ?