

urban areas and 21,673 Post Offices situated in the rural areas are working on loss.

(c) During the years 1968, 1969 and 1970 3190, 2607 and 2635 Post Offices respectively were opened in the rural areas and 358, 306 and 350 Post Offices respectively were opened in the urban areas.

(d) It is proposed to open 2764 Post Offices in the rural areas and 394 Post Offices in the urban areas of the country during the financial year 1971-72. Of these, 24 sub-offices in the urban areas and 200 extra departmental branch offices in rural areas are proposed to be opened in Bihar State.

Production of Cotton

121. SHRI A. N. CHAWLA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have evolved some programme for increasing the cotton production in 1971-72 as also same long-term programme for increase in production of cotton;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(c) the new areas Government propose to develop under cotton where irrigation facilities could be extended ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHIB P. SHINDE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Broad outlines of the Centrally Sponsored Cotton Development Programme for 1971-72 are as under:

1. Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Maximised Production of Cotton.

(i) To increase the production of cotton by adoption of package of practices over an area of 5.72 lakh hectares.

(ii) Production of adequate quantity of Nucleus and Foundation Seed over an area of 914 hectares,

iii) Composite Demonstrations over an area of 6265 hectares.

(iv) Organisation of Mass Plant Protection Campaigns over an area of 1.75 lakh hectares.

(v) Aerial Spraying of Pesticides for plant protection over an area of 2.60 lakh hectares.

(vi) Demonstration of the advantage of Foliar application of urea in raising the yield level in rainfed tracts over a gross area of 28,320 hectares

(vii) Establishment of 24 kapas grading centres in the areas covered by Intensive Cultivation Scheme

2 Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of Sea Island Cotton

Production of Sea Island Cotton in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Mysore over an area of 1,000 hectares

In order to further intensify the production efforts, specific schemes on the pattern of Intensive Area Development Programme etc. are under consideration.

The coverage under all the above schemes will be increased in a phased manner during 1972-73 and 1973-74.

(c) Government propose to develop irrigated cotton in the Nagarjunasagar Project in Andhra Pradesh, Tungabhadra Project in Mysore and Rajasthan Canal Area in Rajasthan.

Land Army of Educated Unemployed

122. SHRI S. M BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a land Army is likely to be created for providing jobs to the educated unemployed ;

(b) if so, when ; and

(c) whether any detailed scheme has been chalked out in this regard ?