

- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
 (c) the steps being taken to remove the said disparity?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (e). Central supply of foodgrains to different States cannot be based on the population of each State and a uniform standard of quantity to be supplied per person. For a particular year, some States produce more than the quantity that is required for consumption within the State and the others produce a part of the requirements. The part again varies from State to State. Central allotment of foodgrains to the different States is based on the overall availability with the Centre and the relative needs of each State taking material factors into consideration.

Production of Jute in Assam

*1058. Shri R. Barua: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a gradual fall in the production of jute in Assam;
 (b) if so, how does it affect our jute industry in regard to availability of fine varieties of jute.
 (c) whether any steps have been taken to increase the jute production in Assam and, if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) whether any steps have been taken to check fall in jute prices below the Assam bottom price in Calcutta?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Co-operation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) No. The yield in 1966-67 was better than in the previous year. So far the crop is good.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes. A statement giving the details is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-977/67.] This will indicate the efforts to push up production.

(d) The current price is above the minimum support price fixed by the Government for Assam Bottom at Calcutta.

Construction of New Aerodromes

*1059. Shri Baburao Patel: Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have planned to rebuild several new aerodromes, and if so, where, at what cost and within what period;
 (b) the amount of foreign exchange required for constructional fittings and providing other modern amenities;
 (c) whether this huge expenditure is considered essential when the existing aerodromes can meet all the requirements; and
 (d) if not, the reasons for taking up construction of the new aerodromes?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) to (d). The question presumably refers to the plans for improving the existing airports and for taking up construction of new airports. As regards the former, a high-powered Committee is being set up to work out the details of the requirements of the four international airports, keeping in view the introduction of very large subsonic and supersonic aircrafts in the 70s. It is not correct to say that the existing airports can meet all the requirements. In fact, the terminal facilities available at the international airports are proving inadequate even at present. It is, therefore, necessary to go in for planned and large scale programme of improvement of these airports to meet the vastly increased requirements of air traffic in the next decade. This will necessarily involve some foreign exchange liability, but it is not possible at this stage to give any detail until the report of the Committee is received.

As regards other existing airports, and also construction of new airports, these are undertaken as a continuous process as and when necessary to meet the traffic requirements of the Indian Airlines Corporation.