

**Food zone consisting of Delhi,
Haryana and Punjab**

***619. Shri Yajna Datta Sharma:
Shri A. B. Vajpayee:
Shri S. S. Kothari:
Shri N. S. Sharma:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration has proposed the formation of a food zone consisting of Delhi, Haryana and Punjab; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Production of cash crops

***620. Shri B. N. Shastri:
Shri Bedabrata Barua:
Shri Y. A. Prasad:**

Will the Minister of **Food and Agriculture** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost all Centrally sponsored schemes for stepping up production of cash crops such as groundnuts, cotton, jute etc. introduced last year have not yielded the desired result; and

(b) if so, the broad details thereof?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) and (b). In 1966-67 Centrally Sponsored Schemes covered 2.65 lakh acres of cotton, 60.55 acres of nucleus and 832.00 acres of foundation cotton seeds; 1.78 lakh acres of groundnut; and 1281 acres of V.F.C. tobacco. The jute programme of free supply of urea for foliar spray covered 2.90 lakh acres.

It would be over simplification to say that these schemes have not yielded the desired result. The jute scheme introducing foliar spray of urea over large areas was fairly successful. So

was nucleus and foundation cotton seed production. Keeping in view the large acreage under cotton or groundnut in the whole country the Centrally sponsored schemes are at best, intensive schemes over limited areas, supplementing the cotton or groundnut or jute schemes in the State Plan. The tobacco scheme also was of a limited application, mainly for export types. The Schemes were sanctioned rather late and being new schemes it takes time to set up the necessary organisation. The very unfavourable weather conditions in 1966-67 seriously affected the operation of these schemes.

Increase in Freight Rates

***621. Shri Virendrakumar Shah:
Shri S. K. Tapuriah:
Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri E. K. Nayanar:
Shri Bhogendra Jha:**

Will the Minister of **Transport and Shipping** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 325 on the 6th June, 1967 regarding the increase in freight rates from July, 1967 and state:

(a) whether some retaliatory measures are envisaged in the event of failure of efforts to prevent the freight rise; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of **Transport and Shipping** (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) and (b). As has been indicated in answer to Starred Question No. 325 answered in the Lok Sabha on 6.6.67, the matter is being pursued with the Conferences and if necessary a representative delegation will be sent to the USA to discuss this matter further. The question of initiating retaliatory measures does not, therefore, arise as the matter is under correspondence.

Subsidy on Foodgrains to States

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

(a) whether Government are paying subsidy on rice and imported