

(b) Mechanical composting offers a solution to the various problems of disposal of wastes in big cities. It is particularly suited for cities in which population growth has taxed the capacity of existing sites for dumps or land-fill. It can be undertaken at a central location and in small compact areas thus avoiding long haulage and constant search for new land. Many sewage treatment plants have become over-loaded and disposal of sludge has become a problem. Mechanised compost plants can also convert sewage sludge into a safe valuable manure and eliminate to a great extent, the need for large an-aerobic digesters and sludge drying beds, thus effecting saving in the cost of disposal. If composting has to be encouraged in the larger cities the traditional method of composting will not be suitable; it is only the mechanised composting which may prove effective in not only serving as a means of hygienic disposal of the urban wastes but also of providing the country with larger quantities of high quality organic manure to supplement the supply of chemical fertilisers. The other advantages of mechanised composting are :—

- (i) Sanitary control with odour-proof devices;
 - (ii) Working both in dry and wet seasons;
 - (iii) Recovery of discarded materials like metal, glass, rags etc.
 - (iv) High grade compost quality in a very short time.
- (c) Does not arise.

Decrease of Crop Area in Rajasthan

*1160. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the area under crop in Rajasthan has shrunk considerably ;

(b) if so, whether any estimate has been made of the shrinkage and the likely short-fall in the production;

(c) whether the State Government have urged the Centre to give adequate food aid to meet the conditions arising as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) and (b). Firm estimates of area and production would become available after the close of agricultural year, *i. e.* sometime in July-August, 1969. According to preliminary estimates, the area under foodgrains in Rajasthan during 1968-69 is lower than that during 1967-68.

(c) and (d). A Statement showing the allotments of foodgrains asked by the State Government and the quantities allotted is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Rajasthan Government asked for allotment of 73.9 and 55.0 thousand tonnes of foodgrains for the months of January and February 1969 respectively. No demands specifying any quantity have been received for the months of March and April, 1969. The allotments of foodgrains made to Rajasthan since January 1969 are indicated below :

Quantities in '000' tonnes

	Wheat	Milo	Maize	Jowar	Total
January, 1969	22.2	10.0	—	10.0	42.2
February, 69	35.0	5.0	5.0	10.2	55.2
March, 69	35.0	—	—	10.0	45.0
April, 69	35.0	—	—	—	35.0

U.N. Development Programme for Fisheries in India

*1161. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:
SHRI D. C. SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the U.N. Development Programme have decided to