

(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

set up two projects in India for the development of Fisheries and Farms ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) when the projects are likely to be set up ; and

(d) the benefits to be derived out of the proposed projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme has sanctioned in January, 1969 an allocation of funds to the extent of \$ 2,018,800 for Pelagic Fishery Investigation on the South-West Coast. The Plan of Operation is yet to be finalised. There is no project on Farms for UNDP assistance.

(b) and (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The project will be taken up for implementation after a Plan of operation is finalised and signed.

#### STATEMENT

The Government of India invited a U.N.D.P. Fishery Mission in February, 1968 to study the possibilities of investigating the potentialities of pelagic fishery resources (Mackerel, Sardine, etc.). The landings of these fishes at present are about 30% of the total marine landings. The fishery zone is restricted to a narrow coastal belt between Cochin and Ratnagiri and the fishery is subjected to wide fluctuations. These fishes are caught in the in-shore area by traditional methods.

The Mission found that the existing knowledge of these resources was inadequate to help prepare a plan for the development of these resources and suggested that a survey should first be undertaken, and in case the survey indicated existence of sizeable stocks, further steps could be taken to develop a modern fishing and processing industry. The projet envisages an outlay of

Rs. 21.43 million out of which the counterpart contribution by the Government of India would be about Rs. 7.92 million.

The survey will be restricted to the south-west coast of India and the contribution from U. N. D. P. will be of two vessels, equipment and experts, while the Indian contribution will be of counterpart personnel, land, buildings, running expenditure and local operating costs. The duration of the survey is five years. The Governing Council of the UNDP has at its meeting held in Jan., 1969, Sanctioned allocation of \$2018,800 for this project.

As a result of the proposed survey, precise information on the occurrence, extent and location of pelagic resources will be available. The improved methods evolved for catching these varieties of fish during the survey will be made available to the fishing industry. Besides location of fishing grounds and training of personnel both in modern methods of survey and fishing, successful operation of the scheme would pave the way for expansion of the deep sea fishing programme and development of the fish processing industry.

Since the Governing Council has sanctioned this project, the next step would be for the United Nations Development Programme to send to the Government of India a detailed draft plan of Operation indicating the terms and conditions governing the implementation of the project. The plan of Operation will be examined by the Government of India and its acceptability conveyed to the U. N. D. P. After the terms and conditions stipulated are mutually agreed to, the final Plan of Operation is signed and the implementation of the project is taken up.

#### Supply of Jowar instead of Bajra in Famine Areas of Rajsthan

\*1162. DR. KARNI SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the famine stricken areas of West Rajasthan are being supplied Jowar instead of Bajra;