

based on the provisional advance estimate. According to the final estimate, framed subsequently, the production of foodgrains in 1965-66 was 72.3 million tonnes. Government agree with the reasons given for the shortfall in the production of foodgrains in 1965-66 as given in the F.A.O. Report.

(c) The per capita net production of foodgrains in India in 1965-66 has been estimated at 12.4 oz. per day (128.3 kg. per year). Corresponding world figures are not available.

Reclamation of Chambal Ravine

*179. **Shri Parashar:**
Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath:
Shri Wadiwa:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavaia:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) the progress that has been made regarding feasibility of establishment of a Joint Ravine Reclamation Board for reclamation of the Chambal ravine;

(b) whether it is proposed to vest the Joint Ravine Reclamation Board with the powers and funds to execute expeditiously their own programme of action;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) Draft proposals for the setting up of a Central Ravine Reclamation Board have been drawn up and referred to the concerned State Governments, viz. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat for their concurrence. The comments from two of the States are still awaited.

(b) No. It is proposed that the Central Ravine Reclamation Board

will in the initial stage be a coordinating body laying down unified plans and priorities for ravine reclamation and for watching the performances. The Central and State Governments concerned may have to provide funds from within their respective plan budgets as at present. The execution of ravine reclamation projects will be done by the State Governments in their respective areas. The proposed Board will have representatives of both the Central and State Governments concerned.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The ravine lands are spread over the various State territories. An executive Board, with powers and functions to execute its own programmes would require complete control over the land to be reclaimed. The question of quantum of responsibility by the State and the Centre will arise only in executing the programme. Such an arrangement will also entail huge investment with little prospects of immediate returns.

In the context of the present financial stringency it would not be possible to find large funds for the establishment of an interstate Board with executive powers.

It is, therefore, considered that in the present context a more realistic approach would be to set up a Board for laying down policies and for co-ordination between the concerned States.

Jute Crop Yield

*180. **Shri Rameshwar Tantia:** Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jute crop yield will be much less during this year

than the requirement of the factories; and

(b) if so, what will be the shortfall and how it will be met?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Shyam Dhar Misra): (a) and (b). The shortfall is tentatively estimated to be about 17 lakh bales of raw jute/mesta and cuttings, to maintain the 1965 level of production. With a view to meet this shortfall, the import of raw jute has been placed under the O.G.L. with effect from the 13th July, 1966.

Ernakulam-Kunnamkulam Road

766. Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri A. V. Raghavan:

Will the Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 909 on the 2nd August, 1966 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken to construct a new coastal road connecting Ernakulam and Kunnamkulam;

(b) whether this work has been included in the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, when the work will commence?

The Minister of Transport, Aviation, Shipping and Tourism (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) to (c). The State Chief Engineer has intimated that the proposed coastal road connecting Ernakulam and Kunnamkulam has since been included in the State Government's proposals for the Fourth Five-Year Plan. The construction of this road is expected to commence during 1967-68 subject to the availability of funds.

Deep Sea and Offshore Fishing Organisation

767. Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri A. V. Raghavan:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 980 on the 2nd August, 1966 and state:

(a) whether any decision has since been taken to revise the pay scales of the Floating staff of the Deep Sea and Offshore Fishing Organisation;

(b) if so, the nature of decision taken; and

(c) whether Rules governing the service conditions have also been finalised?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Govinda Menon): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The matter is still under consideration.

(c) The floating staff of the Deep Sea and Offshore Fishing Organisation are governed generally by the service conditions applicable to other Central Government employees of similar category.

Coconut Diseases

768. Shri Vasudevan Nair:
Shri Warior:

Will the Minister of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the diseases affecting coconut in Kerala State are spreading;

(b) if so, the total area and number of trees affected by the diseases; and

(c) the steps taken to intensify research for checking and eradicating coconut diseases?