

JUTE CULTIVATION

3926. SHRI B. N. SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under jute cultivation in Assam at the end of last agrarian calendar year;

(b) the total production of Jute during the above period; and

(c) whether it is apprehended that jute cultivation will decrease in the next year due to uneconomic price of jute ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Estimates of area and production of jute in Assam for 1966-67 and 1967-68 are as under :—

| Year | Area Production | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| | ('000 hectares) | ('000 bales of 180 Kg. each) |
| 1966-67 | 136 | 991 |
| 1967-68 | 146 | 1049 |

(c) To provide incentive to the grower to increase jute production, minimum support prices of jute have been raised to Rs. 107.14 per quintal for the current season as compared with Rs. 93.75 per quintal for the previous season. Steps are being taken to support the prices of jute at this higher level.

PUBLIC CALL AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN PURNA CUTTACK (ORISSA)

3927. SHRI A. DIPA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is no public Telephone Call Office and Telegraph office in Purna-Cuttack (Orissa) with a population of about 20,000 people;

(b) whether any requests have been made to Government for opening these offices there; and

(c) if so, the steps Government has taken to open these Public Call and Telegraph Offices there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Telegraph facility on Phonocom basis exists at Purna-cuttack, but no Public Call Office exists there.

(b) Yes.

(c) Arrangements for conversion of Phonocom to Morse system have been completed. Orders for posting a signaller at Purna-cuttack have already been issued. Morse Telegraph working will commence when the signaller joins. The opening of a Public Call Office Purna-Cuttack has also been sanctioned.

PRODUCTION OF MARINE FISH

3928. SHRI D. N. PATODIA :
SHRI Y. A. PRASAD :
SHRI N. K. SANGHI :
R. R. SINGH DEO :

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

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to augment the production of marine fish; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The major schemes formulated to increase marine fish production in India relate to :

- (i) mechanisation of fishing crafts.
- (ii) supply of fishery requisites.
- (iii) Use of larger trawlers for the exploitation of off-shore fisheries.
- (iv) Establishment of deep sea exploratory units, and
- (v) provision of landing and berthing facilities.