

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Anasahib Ghinde): (a) The allotments made to Bihar were—

March	178,000 tonnes
April	197,000 tonnes
May	225,000 tonnes

(b) The quantities despatched were—

March	172,400 tonnes
April	196,600 tonnes
May	180,400 tonnes

(Upto 20-5-1967)

(c) The total quantity despatched during the months consisted of about half wheat and half milo.

(d) The production of milo in the case of other States ranged from 52 per cent. to 0 per cent.

(e) The shortfalls were nominal and were due to various reasons like late arrivals of ships, strikes at ports, hold-up of wagons, etc.

(f) No discrimination was made in the case of any State. Proportion of wheat and milo in the quota of State was determined by the availability of the two types of grains and the need to provide cheap grains in the scarcity-affected areas.

#### Highway Development Programme.

908. Shri Devan Sen:

Shri Madhu Laxaya:

Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised their highway development programme for inclusion in the Fourth Plan; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof.

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Mr. V. K. S. V. Rao): (a) No, Sir. It has not been possible to finalise the highway development

programme for the Fourth Plan period in respect of National Highways and other centrally aided road projects because the Plan itself is still under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Jute Production Target

909. Shri F. G. Sen: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the target for the production of Jute during 1967-68;

(b) the measures taken for its achievement; and

(c) whether any price incentive is under consideration with a view to boost Jute production?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Anasahib Ghinde): (a) 94.00 lakh bales, both for jute and mesta.

(b) The following measures are being adopted for achieving the above target:—

(1) Introduction of jute cultivation on a large scale in the deep tube-well areas of West Bengal and newly irrigated areas of Kosi and Hirakud Projects.

(2) Encouraging cultivation of jute as a second crop in rotation with paddy and potatoes in irrigated areas.

(3) Replacement of the existing strains by high yielding and fertiliser responsive ones.

(4) Adoption of package of improved practices, including foliar spray of urea, line sowing and control of pests and diseases and weeds.

(c) The minimum support price of Assam Bottom variety of raw jute