

food crop cultivation and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far in this regard including extension of new technologies to the Indian farmers which have proved useful in farm output?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Prime Minister has emphasised the need for increasing agricultural production in the next decade to meet the increasing demand.

(b) During 1980-81 to 1990-91, the compound growth rate of area under foodgrains was observed as (—) 0.14 per cent per annum. However, area under all food crops including edible oilseeds, fruits/vegetables, sugarcane etc. has not shown any decline in recent years.

(c) The Government have been implementing various developmental programmes and thrust schemes including development and transfer of appropriate technology to the farmers to increase the farm output.

**Setting up of Advanced Scientific Jute Research Centre at Kendrapara, Orissa**

2852. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR

SAMANTARAY :

SMT. ILA PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Kendrapara sub-division of Cuttack District in the State of Orissa is having Jute cultivation as a main cash crop and there is a jute research centre at Jajanga of Kendrapara for the benefit of the jute growers;

" (b) whether Government propose to have an advanced scientific jute research centre at Kendrapara; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Jute research Centre at Kendrapara of the All India Coordinated Project on Jute and Allied Fibres is considered well equipped to cater to the research requirements of the region.

2853. [Transferred to 17th December, 1992]

**Prices of Fertilizers**

2854. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the retail prices of different types of chemical fertilizers prevailing in July, August, September and October this year;

(b) the comparative corresponding retail prices for 1991 and 1990; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to bring fertilizer prices within the reach of small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) A list indicating the fertilisers which were under statutory price control in 1990 and 1991 and which are presently under statutory price control is annexed as Statement-I. (See below) As per reports received from state Govts., the prevailing selling prices of fertilisers which were decontrolled w.e.f. 25.8.1992 are given in the enclosed Statement-II. (See below)

(c) The Government has released funds to the States, to be passed on to all categories of farmers, for providing a concession @ Rs. 1000 per tonne for DAP and MOP each and proportionately for complex fertilisers during current Rabi season. Rs. 500 crores have also been sanctioned on scheme for the benefit of small and marginal farmers.