

not give scholarships to all the scheduled caste students who applied during the year 1971-72;

(c) whether Government of India propose to give scholarships to the

economically backward students who are unable to meet their expenses ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE CSHRI D. P. YADAV) : (a)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	Amount provided for Post-matric scholarships to		
	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Other Economically Backward Classes
1967-68	428.71	104.97	75.96
1968-69	548.59	114.03	75.96
1969-70	62.29	30.25	..
1970-71	197.22	33.15	..
1971-72	317.51	65.15	..

The Pre-Fourth Plan amount of expenditure (Upto 1968-69) is now the committed expenditure of the States. The contribution of the Government of India from 1969-70 is in addition to this committed expenditure.

(b) No such complaint has been received.

(c) No Sir, Scholarships to the economically backward classes are given by the State Governments from the beginning of the Fourth Plan.

WATER FACILITIES TO RURAL AREAS

1499. SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the various grants given to the States to provide water facilities in rural areas; and

(b) what are the amounts state-wise given during the last plan and during the current plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. SHER SINGH) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and would be laid down on the Table of the House.

CRASH PROGRAMME FOR SPRAYING INSECTICIDES FROM HELICOPTERS

1500. DR. V. B. SINGH :
DR. M. R. VYAS:
SHRI CHAKRAPANI
SHUKLA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a programme, crash or otherwise for setting up a network for spraying insecticides on the block level;

(b) if so, the estimated number of helicopters needed for the purpose; and

(c) what arrangements are being made to manufacture them with indigenous components?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a)

There is no special crash programme or other programme for setting up a network for spraying insecticides at block level, in addition to the plant protection work currently being done by the block staff organising ground and aerial spraying operations under the State and Central Schemes.

(b) The Government of India have broadly estimated the requirements of aircraft necessary for aerial spraying operations over the next few years. Out of this, the number of helicopters that would be necessary, is being worked out on the basis of areas which can be sprayed only by such aircraft.

(c) No helicopters specially built for agricultural aviation is being manufactured in the country. Government of India are exploring the possibilities of using indigenously produced helicopters for agricultural aviation purposes.

ALL INDIA COTTON ACREAGE

1501. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON : SHRI N. K. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that between 1964-65 to 1970-71 the all India Cotton acreage fell by about 75,000 hectares ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the acreage under cotton cultivation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE <SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE) : (a)

A statement indicating area under cotton from 1961-62 to 1970-71 is attached. It will be seen therefrom that the area under cotton during 1964-65 was abnormally high.

(b) It will be seen from the statement referred to above that area under cotton has been fluctuating due mainly to prevailing weather conditions in major rainfed cotton growing States and diversion of area to more remunerative crops.

(c) It is proposed to expand cotton cultivation under irrigation and in the new Projects like Nagarjunasagar, Tungabhadra and Rajasthan Canal area. The acreage under cotton in the above States has already recorded some increase. However, in the cotton development programmes the main stress is on increasing productivity per unit area through various intensification measures, rather than increasing the area. According to the latest reports available, even though the area under cotton during 1971-72 has been almost the same as in 1970-71, the production has gone up appreciably.

STATEMENT

Area under Cotton from 1961-62 to 1970-71

(000 hectares)

Year	Area
1961-62	7978
1962-63	7730
1963-64	8221
1964-65	8365
1965-66	7962
1966-67	7836
1967-68	7995
1968-69	7596
1969-70	7731
1970-71	7610

DEVELOPMENT OF INLAND NAVIGATIONAL ROUTES

1502. SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON: SHRI N. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is immense scope for developing inland