

of foreign exchange earned in 1964, 1965 and 1966 are as under:—

Year	Quantity (Lakh tonnes).	Foreign exchange earnings (Rs. crores)
1964	2.34	19.08
1965	2.67	11.24*
1966	4.41	17.99*

*Estimate

3. [Transferred to the 31st March, 1967].

INCREASE IN THE YIELD PER ACRE OF COTTON

4. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempts have been made by Government to increase the yield per acre of areas under cotton cultivation; and

(b) whether any advice was sought from the State Department of Agriculture of the United States of America in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes. Efforts are being made to increase per acre yield of cotton as there is no scope of increase in area, by the application of intensive methods i.e., by the use of improved seeds fertilisers and the adoption of plant protection measures. Special package areas have been selected in irrigated and assured rainfed areas for this purpose and out of 20 million acres under cotton 13 lakh acres are now covered under this programme where all the package practices are being applied. As the State Plans cannot finance such heavy programmes, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme has been sanctioned with a total cost of Rs. 139 lakhs to ensure the success of the above programme in additional 7 lakh acres during the year 1967-68.

(b) No.

DEVELOPMENT OF PORTS

5. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 234 crores have been allocated for the development of eleven major ports during the Fourth Five Year Plan period;

(b) what steps are going to be taken to augment the capacity of the existing ports to catch up with the growing volume of trade; and

(c) what steps are going to be taken to fulfil the directive of the Planning Commission.

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) to (c) A programme for the development of Major Ports during the Fourth Five Year Plan envisaging a total investment of Rs. 234 crores has been included in the Draft Outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan. Apart from new dock systems to be established, programmes for modernisation of the existing handling facilities at ports and rationalisation with a view to increasing operational efficiency are included in the programme. It is expected that these measures will enable the ports to cope with the anticipated increase in traffic.

SALE OF SEIZED INDIAN VESSELS BY PAKISTAN

6. SHRI N. R. M. SWAMY:
SARDAR RAM SINGH:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Pakistan propose to sell 1193 Indian vessels which were seized by them in East Pakistan during the 1965 conflict; and

(b) if so, what action have been taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SHIPPING (PROF. V. K. R. V. RAO): (a) and (b) Presumably the reference is to a report carried by the