

JUTE AND MESTA

\*217. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Will the Minister for COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the minimum number of bales of jute and mesta required for our mills annually; and

(b) what is our present production of jute and mesta ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) 6 million bales of 400 lbs. each of jute are required on the basis of present working hours.

(b) Total production during 1951-52 was 4.68 million bales. Separate figures of production of mesta are not available.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : What are the countries from which they are imported ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : From Pakistan and from Nepal—about 40,000 bales.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know whether there is any country outside India that manufactures hessian cloth ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : Yes, there are many other countries. In America they are using this for manufacturing purposes.

SHRI M. ROUFIQUE : Is it a fact that 45 bales out of every 100 are produced by the State of Assam ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I should like to have notice for separate figures for Assam.

PROGRAMMES FOR RURAL POPULATION

\*218. SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : (a) Will the Minister for INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state from how many All India Radio Stations special programmes for rural population are arranged and broadcast ?

(b) How many farm-forum centres are there in different States ?

(c) Has any action been taken by Government to increase the number of these centres ?

THE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR) : (a) Special programmes for the rural population are broadcast from all stations of All India Radio except Ahmedabad.

(b) Bombay—104

Madras—89

U. P.—17

Delhi—25

(c) Yes, Sir.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : May I know from the hon. Minister whether these farm-forum centres for the Bombay State are increasing or decreasing ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I hope they are increasing.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Is it contemplated to produce cheap radio sets for rural population ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I understand that their production is under contemplation.

SHRI T. R. DEOGIRIKAR : Is it on account of the high cost of the sets that farm-forum centres are not increasing ?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR : I think, it is both on account of the high cost of the radio sets and the high cost of materials.

MACHINERY FOR THE FORMULATION OF PLANS

\*219. SHRI B. C. GHOSE : Will the Minister for PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present machinery for the formulation of plans at State and Central levels ; and