

## CHAPTER III

### AVAILABILITY OF RAW JUTE AND MESTA

**3.1. Availability during the First Plan Period.**—The vicissitudes regarding the supply of raw jute, which followed the partition of India, have had far-reaching effects on the jute economy of the country. As a result of the partition, most of the areas, accounting for about 3/4ths of the production of best quality jute in the State of Bengal, which in itself grew more than 80% of the total jute in the country, passed to Pakistan while the entire mill industry remained concentrated in India. Thus, on the eve of the partition, areas under Indian Union grew only about 16.58 lakh bales of jute as against the mill requirements of about 60 to 65 lakh bales of raw jute and its substitutes. India thus became dependent for her raw jute supplies on Pakistan. A common jute policy with Pakistan could not be worked and the non-devaluation of currency by her in 1949 added to the gravity of the situation. The Government of India, therefore, undertook measures for increasing the internal production of raw jute which were later merged with the Integrated Production Programme launched in 1950-51. As a result, the production of jute in the country increased significantly from 16.58 lakh bales in 1947-48 to 20.55 lakh bales in 1948-49. The lifting of price control on raw jute and jute goods early in 1951, further provided a stimulus to jute cultivators and the production in 1951-52 reached the unprecedented level of 46.78 lakh bales. This tempo could not, however, be maintained and production fell to 45.9 lakh bales in 1952-53, 30.9 lakh bales in 1953-54 and touched as low as 29.3 lakh bales in 1954-55. This sharp decline was reported to be mainly due to the low prices of raw jute at the sowing time and the unfavourable weather conditions. The position, however, improved subsequently and the production went up to 42 lakh bales in 1955-56.

**3.2.** Owing to a unique coincidence of climatic and agronomic conditions, West Bengal occupies a predominant place in the production of jute. In 1955-56 it accounted for about 50% of the total production in the country. Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Tripura followed and accounted for about 29%, 12%, 6%, and 1.2% respectively of the total production in 1955-56. In recent years, Uttar Pradesh has also started growing some jute. The State-wise production of jute and mesta during the past few years is indicated in the following table.

TABLE No. 6

(State-wise Production of Jute and Mesta)

(Thousand bales of 400 lbs. each)

State	1947-48*		1948-49*		1949-50		1950-51		1951-52		1952-53		1953-54		1954-55		1955-56		1956-57			
	Jute	Mesta	Jute	Mesta	Jute	Mesta	Jute	Mesta	Jute	Mesta	Jute	Mesta	Jute	Mesta	Jute	Mesta	Jute	Mesta	Jute	Mesta		
Andhra Pradesh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Assam	536	599	717	..	790	..	840	..	912	8	902	9	750	4	1,212	9	1,049	11	..	..	..	
Bihar	403	457	665	..	616	..	898	..	820	26	410	16	374	40	512	35*	1,380	105*	..	..	..	
Bombay	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Madhya Pradesh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Madras	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Mysore	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Orissa	44	65	147	..	242	..	387	..	256	50	129	34	192	41	245	45	183	50	..	..	..	
Punjab	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
U.P.	..	..	24	..	49	..	103	..	124	..	56	..	70	..	89	..	89	..	..	..	..	
West Bengal	649	907	1,510	..	1,538	..	2,389	..	2,422	51	1,556	36	1,496	431	2,089	612*	1,462	804*	..	..	..	
Tripura	26	27	26	..	48	..	61	..	58	..	38	..	46	..	50	..	58	..	..	..	..	
TOTAL	1,658	2,055	3,089	..	3,283	..	4,678	..	4,592	682	3,091	650	2,928	1,018	4,197	1,159	4,221	1,474	..	..	..	
TOTAL JUTE & MESTA	(1,658)	(2,055)	(3,089)	(3,283)	(4,678)	(5,274)	(3,741)	(3,946)	(5,356)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)	(5,695)

NOTE-- Figures relate to re-organised States.

\* Relate to set-up of States existing before re-organisation.

3.3. Despite the significant increase in the production of jute and mesta since partition, the country has remained deficient in the supply of jute to the extent of about 14 to 15 lakh bales which are imported from Pakistan. The over-all supply position during the First Five Year Plan period was thus as follows:—

TABLE NO. 7

*Supply Position of Raw Jute and Mesta during the First Plan Period*

(In lakh bales of 400 lbs. each)

	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56
1. Production of jute . . . . .	46.78	45.92	30.91	29.28	41.97
2. Production of mesta . . . . .	..	6.82	6.50	10.18	11.59
3. Imports of jute from Pakistan . . . . .	18.30	13.25	14.82	12.46	14.70
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>65.08</b>	<b>65.99</b>	<b>52.23</b>	<b>51.92</b>	<b>68.26</b>

3.4. Besides the imports as shown in the above table, some jute has been available from other sources which is estimated by the trade at 2 lakh bales.

3.5. **Availability during the Second Plan Period.**—The target of production of jute during the Second Plan period has recently been revised from 50 lakh bales to 55.4 lakh bales. No target for mesta production has, however, been laid down. Judging from the rate at which mesta production has been increasing in recent years and its heavy demand by mills, it is very likely that the production will increase significantly during the Second Plan period. This is supported by the fact that even in 1956-57, the first year of the Second Plan, mesta production has gone up from 11.59 lakh bales in 1955-56 to 14.74 lakh bales which shows an increase of more than 27%. We feel, therefore, that mesta production in 1960-61 could easily be reckoned at 20 lakh bales.

3.6. **Year-wise Availability of Jute and Mesta.**—The year-wise break-up of the target of jute has not so far been worked out. To be fairly correct, it has to be estimated in the light of the State Governments' development programmes, reliable information about which is unfortunately not yet available. For our purpose, therefore, we could do nothing better than to make a rough estimate, as shown in the following table, of the likely production during each year of the Second Plan period which is subject.

of course, to the same reservation as mentioned in the previous chapter:—

TABLE NO. 8

*Year-wise break-up of Jute and Mesta during the Second Plan period*

(lakh bales of 400 lbs. each)

	1956-57	1957-58	1958-59	1959-60	1960-61
Jute . . . . .	42.2	44.0	48.0	51.5	55.4
Mesta . . . . .	14.7	16.0	17.5	19.0	20.0
<b>TOTAL . . . . .</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>75.4</b>

**3.7. Variety-wise Production.**—Practically no data are available regarding the variety-wise production of jute in the country. The absence of any scientific standardisation and grading of the various varieties of jute is largely responsible for the paucity of information in this respect. The trade, however, classifies and grades jute fibre in different ways. Broadly, jute is classified into two distinct botanical varieties, *C. Capsularis* and *C. Olitorius*, which are commonly called as White jute and Tossa jute respectively. These two varieties of jute are further sub-divided into top, middle, bottom and X-bottom grades depending upon factors such as strength, colour percentage of cuttings, etc. Another classification of jute is based on its technical characteristics according to which jute may be of Jat, District, Northern, Western, Assam, Orissa, Jungli and Mesta varieties. The Jat variety is the best type of jute generally used for the manufacture of special bright Hessian. Each of the above varieties is further sub-divided into four grades, viz., top, middle, bottom and X-bottom.

**3.8.** Most of the States have so far not been collecting information regarding variety-wise production of jute on a regular basis. The tentative information\* received from the State Governments shows that of the total production of jute (excluding mesta), roughly about 70% is white jute and 30% is tossa jute. On the other hand, some knowledgeable jute dealers and traders estimate that of the total Indian jute crop, about 75% is white jute and the rest is tossa jute. It may be that the estimate of the trade errs a little on the high side in as much as they may include some jute other than normal imports from Pakistan and exclude some Indian jute that is consumed in the villages from their calculations. Though the figures furnished by the State Governments are admittedly of a very tentative nature we would rather like to err on the safe side and adopt them for the purpose of calculating deficiency in our supply of the two varieties of jute.

**3.9. Demand and Supply Position during the Second Plan Period.**—Assuming that the variety-wise break-up, suggested above, represents a reasonable estimate of the Indian crop and that this pattern would continue in future also, the demand and supply position of white jute, tossa jute and mesta during the Second Plan period would be somewhat as on next page, other things remaining the same.

\* Appendix B-III.

TABLE NO. 9

## Demand and Supply Position of Raw Jute during the Second Five Year Plan period

(Lakh bales of 400 lbs. each)

	1956-57		1957-58		1958-59		1959-60		1960-61					
	Internal supply requirements	Deficiency	Internal supply	Consumption requirements	Deficiency	Internal supply	Consumption requirements	Deficiency	Internal supply	Consumption requirements				
1. White Jute . . .	29.7	4.9	31.2	35.9	4.7	33.6	37.0	3.4	36.1	38.4	2.3	38.8	40.0	1.2
2. Tessa Jute & Cuttings . . .	12.5	4.9	13.3	17.9	4.6	14.4	18.5	4.1	15.4	19.2	3.8	16.6	19.8	3.2
3. Mesta . . .	14.7	2.6	16.0	18.0	2.0	17.5	18.8	1.3	19.0	19.2	0.2	20.0	20.0	..
<b>TOTAL . . .</b>	<b>56.9</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>60.5</b>	<b>71.8</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>74.3</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>70.5</b>	<b>76.8</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>4.4</b>

We would, however, emphasize that these are only notional estimates and the actual figures in any particular year are likely to be substantially different depending on weather conditions, prices, etc.

**3.10. Variation in Stocks of Raw Jute.**—The deficiency of raw jute worked out in the above table does not take into account the requirements of raw jute for purposes of variations in stocks of raw jute with mills. As we have mentioned in the previous chapter, the stocks of raw jute during the Second Plan period are likely to go up by about 5 lakh bales as compared to those at the end of the First Plan period when they stood at a low figure of about 10.9 lakh bales. On the assumption that the increase in the stocks of raw jute will be spread over a number of years during the Second Plan period, we have taken the overall requirements of raw jute at the end of 1960-61 at 82 lakh bales as against 80 lakh bales required for actual consumption purposes. The total deficiency of raw jute at the end of 1960-61 may thus be about 6.4 lakh bales instead of 4.4 lakh bales as shown in the above table.

**3.11. Deficiency of Raw Jute and Mesta.**—It will be seen from the above table that, other things remaining the same, the consumption demand for fibre may be assumed to exceed its internal supply by more than 12 lakh bales in 1956-57, 11 lakh bales in 1957-58, 8 lakh bales in 1958-59, 6 lakh bales in 1959-60 and 4 lakh bales in 1960-61. The consumption requirements of cuttings have been included under tossa jute in the above table and the deficiency indicated under this head is mainly of cuttings which may be either of tossa jute or of white jute. The main deficiency during the Second Plan period will thus be in respect of white jute and cuttings. Cuttings are actually the cut-pieces of the various varieties of jute—white, tossa, jat, northern, etc., and are a bye-product of pucca baling of raw jute for export markets. They are used in the production of both Hessian and Sackings for giving strength to the finished product. We are told that mesta is proving to be a good substitute of cuttings specially in mills which have installed modern machinery and if our production of mesta increases, the need for import of cuttings is likely to go down considerably.

**3.12. Grade-wise Production of Raw Jute and Mesta.**—The break-up of the production of white jute or tossa jute or mesta into different grades, viz., tops, middles, bottoms and X-bottoms is not available.<sup>1</sup> Since almost the entire internal production is consumed by the mill industry, we can only assume that the production of the different grades would be of the same order as their consumption by the mills. The deficiency of these different grades would in that case be indicated by their imports from Pakistan. We understand from the trade that of the white jute imported from Pakistan, about 25 per cent. is of middle grade, 60 per cent. of bottom grade and 15 per cent. of X-bottom grade. Cuttings imported from Pakistan are largely of white jute—about 80 per cent.—while tossa jute cuttings account for about 20 per cent. It is said that the bottom grade of Pakistan jute is comparable with the middle grade of Indian jute while middle grade jute of Pakistan is superior than our middle grade. Thus our basic deficiency is in respect of better grades of white jute, viz., tops and middles. In our output of white jute the percentage of bottom and X-bottom grades is relatively high and the mere increase in the production of white jute will not solve the problem of deficiency. What is, therefore, needed is an increase in the production of top and middle grades of white jute.

1. Some *ad hoc* information collected by Indian Central Jute Committee is given in Appendix B.—IV.

**3.13.** The fact that the country can produce almost all the good qualities of jute required for maintaining our competitive position in the world markets is not at all disputed. Even as back as 1953, the Expert Committee on Quality of Jute which examined this question in detail stated emphatically that "the popular belief that India cannot grow jute of good quality is erroneous". It is likely, however, that for producing special bright Hessian for U.S. markets we may have to remain dependent on Pakistan for jat variety of white jute to the extent of about 50,000 to 1,00,000 bales. Even for the manufacture of this special variety of Hessian we understand that the jute grown in Tripura (known as Agartala jute), Dhubri, Goalpara and Mankatchar areas in lower Assam, Mathabhanga, Dinhatta, Haldibari and Belakoba areas in West Bengal is quite suitable provided the colour of jute grown in these areas is improved.

**3.14.** It is necessary to note here that in estimating the likely deficiency in the internal supplies of production of jute and mesta during the Second Plan period we have assumed that the year-wise targets of jute and mesta mentioned above will be achieved. To the extent that does not materialise our dependence on imports will correspondingly increase. In fact it is likely that in 1957-58 itself our actual import requirements may be substantially different from the estimates given above. The consumption requirements estimated by us are not very optimistic and though some unforeseen and abnormal factors may cause a decline in the world demand for jute goods, the present indications are that the world consumption of jute will expand in future and this is the time for us to catch up with it and strengthen our competitive position in the world markets.

**3.15. Self-sufficiency.**—The deficiency in the supply of raw jute during the Second Plan period can be made good either by increasing the production of jute and mesta in the country or by imports from Pakistan. For various reasons, it does not seem advisable to continue to rely to any large extent on imports from Pakistan. With restrictions on jute acreage and the price policy now being followed in Pakistan, imports of jute into India from that country are becoming costlier every day and our continued dependence on her will sooner than later weaken seriously our competitive position in the world markets. The trade also feels that it would be very desirable for India to become self-sufficient in jute as early as possible. We have also seen that with the exception of a small quantity of jat variety of white jute, the country is producing or can produce all the varieties of jute needed for the manufacture of jute goods. That today the quality of our jute is not superior and most of it is of bottom or of X-bottom grades is largely due to the fact that retting water facilities are not adequate and our cultivators in many areas are not so skilled as the Pakistani cultivators are. We have been told by the representatives of the trade that wherever displaced jute cultivators from Pakistan have settled, the quality of fibre has improved tremendously. The skill of the cultivators and the retting water facilities available play, therefore, a very important part in determining the quality of jute.

**3.16. Production of Raw Jute.**—To be self-sufficient in the supply of jute, it is necessary that the internal production should be increased much more than what has been envisaged in the Second Five Year Plan and that the additional production should be primarily of superior grades of white jute. As estimated by us above, the deficiency in 1957-58, other things remaining the same, is likely to be of the order of about 11 lakh bales.

and even in 1960-61 the country will remain deficient to the extent of about 6 lakh bales (including requirements for stock purposes) if the present target of jute production is fully achieved and mesta production goes up from 14.7 lakh bales as at present to 20 lakh bales.

3.17. The target of jute production has recently been raised from 50 lakh bales to 55.4 lakh bales. This has been done after full deliberations with the State Governments concerned and with full realisation of the urgent need for stepping up internal production. There may, therefore, be little scope for this target being further revised upward. We have, therefore, to look mainly to the substitute of jute, *i.e.*, mesta. We have examined in greater detail the problem of mesta production in another chapter.

3.18. Classification of jute-growing areas.—In so far as the production of jute is concerned, we have to try our best to achieve the planned target of 55.4 lakh bales and ensure that as large a proportion as possible of this quality jute, especially white jute of superior grades. It was not possible for us to make any comprehensive survey of the areas where good quality jute, in which we are deficient, is being grown at present in the various States and/or where possibilities exist for an increase in its production. We have, however, ascertained, tentatively from the various jute interests, jute brokers, millowners, traders, etc., some of the areas which produce good quality jute and where further efforts may be concentrated. These may roughly be classified into two categories; those where natural supply of slow flowing good retting water is available and those where the fibre grown is good and strong but the absence of sufficient retting water facilities spoils the colour and quality of the fibre. An illustrative list of such areas is given below, while a more comprehensive list is given in Appendix A-VI.

TABLE No. 10  
*Areas Growing Good Quality White Jute*

<i>State</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>Centre</i>
(a) AREAS WHERE NATURAL SUPPLY OF GOOD RETTING WATER IS AVAILABLE.		
West Bengal	Nadia 24-Parganas Burdwan Birbhum.	Areas which are commanded by D.V.C. and Mayurakshj Projects. The water of the canals of these projects can be utilised for retting purposes.
Bihar	Purnea	Kishanganj Forbesganj
U.P.	Sitapur Bahraich Deoria	Running water for retting available in about 40% of the areas in these districts.
Assam	Goalpara Nowgong Kamrup Darrang Lakhimpur Sibsagar	In these districts about 60% of the areas are benefited by river water.
	Garó & Mikir Hills	In 75% areas of these districts there are plenty of sources of water for retting purposes. Areas in these hills are producing good quality jute as they get the advantage of running water from springs.



<i>State</i>	<i>Districts</i>	<i>Centre</i>		
(b) AREAS WHERE FIBRE GROWN IS STRONG AND GOOD BUT RETTING WATER FACILITIES ARE LACKING AND HENCE THE COLOUR IS NOT GOOD.				
West Bengal	Jalpaiguri	Kotowali		
		Raiganj Maynaguri Mal Junction Metali Nagarkat Dhupguri.		
	Darjeeling	Siliguri Phansideva Kharibari		
	Cooch Behar ,	Sadar Dinhatta Mathbhanga Mekliganj Tufanganj		
		West Dinajpore	Balurghat, Hilli, Kaliyaganj, Raiganj Bansihari Kushmandi, Hemtapad Itahar, Gangarampur Tapan, Kumarganj	
	Malda	Gazole Harishchandrapur Habibpur Bamongola		
		24—Parganas	Bishnupur Bhangore Andanga	
	Bihar	Santhal Parganas	Sahibganj Bhowanipur Pakur Janakinagar Chhatapur	
			Champaran	Motihari
			Muzaffarpur	Motipur
Darbhanga		Khajauli Toki Tamuria Hainagar Hanumangarh.		
		U.P.	Kheri Barabanki Ballia Azamgarh Basti Bijnor Nainital Faizabad	
Assam	Some of the areas in the districts mentioned in category (a) above do not get sufficient water and if retting tanks are provided in these areas, the yield is likely to go up considerably.			
Orissa.	Cuttack	Kendrapara, Pattnmundei, Patkura, Salepur, Mahanga, Kesannagar, Badchana, Dharamsala.		
	Balasore Keonjhar	Anandpur Sub-Division Agartala Karimganj Khowai Ladia.		
Tripura				

**3.19.** We would like to emphasise that the above list is by no means exhaustive. A detailed list can only be worked out by the State Governments concerned, and we would suggest that such a classification of areas should be made by the State Governments as early as possible so that the jute development programme may be planned and executed on proper lines. In areas where natural supply of slow flowing good retting water is available, attempts of the State Governments should be directed towards supplying better seeds, fertilizers and adoption of improved techniques such as line sowing, wheel-hoeing, better retting techniques, etc. The underlying object should be to improve the yield per acre in these areas as well as to improve the colour and quality of jute by training the cultivators in better retting techniques. It would be useful if a number of skilled displaced jute growers who, it is said, know better retting techniques are recruited by State Governments and posted in such areas to give demonstration of better jute growing and jute retting techniques to the local people.

**3.20. Areas served by Canals of D.V.C. and Mayurakshi Projects.—**Our attention has also been drawn to the possibility of growing jute in the neighbourhood of canals in Damodar Valley Corporation commanded areas and in Mayurakshi Project areas. Experiments carried out by the Jute Agricultural Research Institute of the Indian Central Jute Committee have shown that white jute *C. Capsularis*, as an earlier additional crop, can be fitted well in double cropping programme with transplanted paddy in the D.V.C. areas. If timely irrigation is made available, it is possible to cultivate jute as the first crop in at least 20% of the area under the Kharif crop in the D.V.C. commanded zone, i.e. the total acreage under jute (double cropped) can be increased from the existing 1 lakh acres to about 2 lakh acres. The possibilities of increasing acreage in these areas are more bright in the districts of Burdwan, Hooghly and Howrah. Similarly, in the Mayurakshi Project areas if adequate amount of irrigation water is made available from April to July, it is estimated, that the jute acreage can be increased considerably in Murshidabad, Burdwan and Birbhum districts. The slow flowing water of the canals in these areas should be useful for retting at a period when it would not be ordinarily required for irrigation of other crops.

**3.21. Provision of Retting Tanks.—**In the areas of second category, viz., those where good and strong fibre is being grown but the quality and colour is not good because of lack of good retting water, the primary work should be to renovate the existing retting tanks as well as to dig more tanks. We are convinced that the provision of good retting water facilities will alone improve the colour and quality of jute and while better seeds, fertilizers, etc., may be supplied in these areas, the problem of our dependence on Pakistan for better grades of white jute will not be solved unless the basic facility of abundant retting water is provided.

**3.22.** In this connection we were told that though the districts growing white jute in West Bengal receive rainfall of over 100 inches in a year, scarcity of retting water at the time of harvest is felt due to seepage and other factors. Provision of retting pools in these districts will, therefore, considerably contribute to the improvement in the quality of jute. In the districts of Nadia and 24-Parganas, it is generally found that at the time of harvest of early sown white jute, retting tanks do not contain enough water but when mesta or late sown jute is harvested, over-flow from river waters is found to sub-merge the way-side ditches. This explains mainly the reason why the colour of mesta in some of the areas in these districts is better than that of jute. The quality, quantity and availability of retting water are thus essential requirements for production of good jute.

**3.23. Weather Conditions.**—Whether conditions, particularly the number and duration of pre-monsoon showers, also influence the quality and quantity of raw jute. If rains do not take place in May, the cultivators, who would have otherwise grown a crop of white jute *C. Capsularis*, usually divert their land to Tossa *C. Olitorious*. If the rains are further delayed, the cultivators have of necessity to grow a crop of mesta or divert the land to other crops.

**3.24. Improvement of Water in Retting Tanks.**—We were also told that the water in the retting tanks gets spoilt after some jute has been steeped into it and subsequent steepings affect the colour and quality of jute. It is desirable that the Indian Central Jute Committee should conduct some research in this matter and find out some chemical, biological or other process for improving the quality of the water in tanks.

**3.25. Soil Survey.**—As in the case of areas in the first category, the increase in the overall production of jute in the areas of the second category will also have to be achieved largely by increasing the yield per acre as the prospects of bringing in more area under jute without affecting the production of paddy are limited. Intensive cultivation in these areas through the adoption of improved seeds, application of fertilizers, improved cultural practices, adoption of plant protection measures, etc., would go a long way in increasing the production of good quality jute. We would, therefore, urge that a detailed survey of the jute growing areas should be undertaken by each State Government and the jute production programme should be planned in a rationalised manner. The Soil Survey recommended by the Expert Committee on the quality of jute, if and when completed by the States, would also be of considerable help in the proper planning of the jute development programme. We regret to note that progress in this regard has been very slow so far and should be expedited.

**3.26. Extensive Cultivation.**—There are also some possibilities of bringing in more area under cultivation of jute without causing any detrimental effect on the production of paddy. In Assam, for instance, we understand that, with appropriate drive, about 45,000 acres more can be put under jute cultivation. Assam produces good quality jute and the yield per acre is also the highest. It is, therefore, highly desirable that an all-out drive should be made by the Government of Assam to increase the production of jute both by extensive and intensive methods of cultivation. Orissa and U.P. also offer some possibility of extensive cultivation. Certain districts in U.P., e.g., Bareilly, Lakhimpur-Kheri, Mirzapur, Gorakhpur etc. are growing good white jute and it is worthwhile examining whether some more lands in these Districts can be put to jute cultivation. Again, in Orissa, the jute grown in Cuttack and Sambalpur areas is strong, though the colour is dark; and if possible, more lands in these areas may be brought under jute cultivation.

**3.27. Intensive Cultivation.**—The urgency of the situation, however, demands that, in the first instance, effort should be concentrated in those areas where good quality white jute is being grown at present and/or where it can be grown or its production can be further increased either by the provision of better seeds, fertilizers, improved cultural practices, etc., or by providing sufficient good retting water facilities. A planned and rational jute development programme would along and the dependence of the country on imports from a precarious source of supply.

3.28. There are, however, limitations to increasing internal production of jute and mesta. At any rate, self-sufficiency cannot be achieved in a year or two. We would, therefore, have to continue to import jute from Pakistan to the extent our supply falls short of the demand. The import policy to be followed in future, so as to be in the best interest of the country, has been examined by us in the next chapter.