

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Humayun Kabir): (a) and (b). [A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 140]

Rice Situation in Orissa

*1323. { Shri Sanganna:
Shri P. K. Dev:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drought condition in the State of Orissa has upset the entire food position of the State;

(b) the quota of rice fixed for export outside Orissa by the Government of India; and

(c) whether in view of drought conditions the export of rice from Orissa will be stopped?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). No export on trade account is now permitted except to the extent necessary to honour Orissa Government's commitments in this regard before the imposition of the ban by the Government of India on 6th June, 1957. It has been agreed that if suitable storage accommodation is available for opening one or two Central storage depots or if the Orissa Government wish to retain on their account under their own arrangements, a portion if the purchases now being made by the Central Government would be left in Orissa to meet possible future needs of Orissa.

Food Situation in Manipur

*1324. Shri L. Achaw Singh: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an acute scarcity of food-grains in 19 tribal villages in the Jiribam sub-division of Manipur for the last 3 months;

(b) whether it is a fact that more than 5000 tribal people have been affected by the famine conditions prevailing in those areas and they are living on roots and leaves and epidem-

mic diseases have broken out as a result of under-nourishment; and

(c) if so, what special steps have been taken by Government to relieve the suffering of the people, in view of the fact that there is no land route to rush food-stuffs from Imphal by motor to these remote hill areas?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): (a) Reports were received from a few Villages in Jiribam Sub-Division referring to low yield of last harvest and local scarcity of foodgrains.

(b) The total population in the villages affected is about 2,000. No epidemic has been reported. Roots and leaves presumably refer to yams and greens which normally form part of tribal diet, when available.

(c) Rice is being offered by Government from Godowns at Silchar. Footpaths maintained by Government are available for carrying headloads to Jiribam Sub-Division, and are used by the tribal people for the purpose.

Underground Road below Railway Track at Anantapur

992. Shri Nagi Reddy: Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the construction of an underground road under the Railway Track passing through Anantapur Town on the Dharmavaram-Anantapur line in the Guntakal Division of the Southern Railway;

(b) whether any request from the public has been received through the Municipal Council; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) to (c). The Andhra Government have submitted a list of level crossings to be replaced by under or over-bridges in order of priority, and the proposal for providing a bridge in place of level crossing at Mile 42/11-12 near Anantapur Railway Station is to be