

varieties of rice are being issued from fair price shops.

(c) Even the surplus States have deficit pockets and foodgrains are supplied to those pockets.

(d) Every effort is being made to increase the internal production of foodgrains in the country. To avoid hardship to the low income group of the population distribution through fair price shops has been liberalized and efforts are being made to intensify internal procurement and to import as much foodgrains from abroad as possible out of the resources available with the Government to maximize distribution through fair price shops. The Government have also appointed a Committee to examine the present working of the fair price shops and to recommend steps to improve their efficiency.

#### **Tribal Development Blocks**

1621. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**  
**Shri P. C. Borooah:**

Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to open more centres for tribal orientation of the Block Development Officers in the Fourth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether advance action is proposed to be taken to start these new centres before the Third Plan ends;

(c) whether voluntary organisations and missionary institutions are to be utilised to supplement the training programme sponsored directly by Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to rationalise the grants-in-aid programmes through voluntary organisations?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy):** (a) It is proposed to establish some more institutions during the Fourth Plan

period for the training of the Block staff in tribal life and culture

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Agriculture-cum-Irrigation-cum-Power Plans**

1622. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**  
**Shrimati Savitri Nigam:**

Will the Minister of Community Development and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Panchayati Raj Organisation has been advised to take up integrated agriculture-cum-Irrigation-cum-power plans to raise agricultural production;

(b) whether the Panchayat Samitis are to be provided with a "free fund" on the basis of matching grants for the next Plan period so as to enable the Samitis to utilise this fund on the schemes formulated by them outside the Plan; and

(c) whether the Samitis have been asked to work out Fourth Plan schemes after a proper survey of the local needs and whether the State Governments have assured them that the programme outlined by them will be given due recognition in the preparation of the State Plan?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development and Cooperation (Shri B. S. Murthy):** (a) Panchayati Raj institutions have been advised to draw up agricultural production plans, taking into account the requirements and resources. In addition, State Governments have been requested to involve the Panchayati Raj institutions also in working out integrated area plans, based on advance surveys in specified sectors, for a couple of pilot districts in each State in the Fourth Plan period.

(b) Some State Governments are considering the provision of a 'free fund' to the Panchayati Raj institutions.

(c) The Samitis will be preparing the plans for their areas based on the assessment of the local needs. These will be accommodated in the state plans subject to the financial feasibility, physical possibility and adherence to plan priorities.

**Light-houses in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

1623. { Shri P. C. Borooah:  
Shri Ram Harkh Yadav:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for putting up a number of Light-houses in the Andaman and Nicobar group of Islands; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and its cost?

**The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the details of the schemes and their cost is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4775/85].

**Development of Gulmarg (Kashmir)**

1624. { Shri Surendra Pal Singh:  
Shri Raghunath Singh:

Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Working Group set up for the preparation of a Master Plan for the development of Gulmarg (Kashmir) into an up-to-date and modern winter sports resort has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, its main recommendations and suggestions.

**The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) and (b). A scheme for development of Gulmarg in Kashmir as a winter sports centre is included in the Third Five Year Plan for tourism of the Central Government. The work of collecting preliminary data, survey of the area, obtaining the

advice of foreign experts and preparation of a detailed scheme has been completed by the Central Government. The scheme envisages construction of motorable road from Tangmarg to Gulmarg, Centrally heated hotel at Gulmarg, ski-school and ski-lift, a ropeway from Gulmarg to Khilnarmarg and other ancilliary facilities. The total cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 1.25 crores and also involves expenditure in foreign exchange.

The Government of J and K have also a number of schemes for providing a tourist reception centre, a shopping arcade, water and electrical supply improvements to existing huts, car parks etc. at Gulmarg with a view to co-ordinate the efforts of the Central and State Government, the Working Group constituted by the Department of Tourism visited Gulmarg in June, 1964 to prepare a Master Plan which would include all the facilities proposed to be provided by the Central and State Government in a co-ordinated manner. The report of the Working Group has since been sent to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

In addition to the facilities mentioned above the Working Group has recommended the Constitution of "Gulmarg Development Authority" to supervise over-all development of Gulmarg as a winter-sports resort. This recommendation is under the consideration of the State Government.

**Inter-State Transport Commission**

1625. **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Minister of Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government are considering to empower the Inter-State Transport Commission to issue permits for bus routes across State boundaries; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Transport (Shri Raj Bahadur):** (a) For the present