

the consideration of the Government of India. Some of these applicants may use rock phosphate available at Jhabua in case industrial licences are granted to them.

#### **Availability of Essential Commodities in Assam**

2154. SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the immediate measures so far adopted/proposed to be adopted to make available essential commodities in Assam particularly for salt, rice, Kerosene oil, sugar and the steps so far taken to introduce a proper public Distribution System in Assam; and

(b) what is the quantity of levy sugar allotted to Assam and quantity allotted and distributed in Cachar District in January and February, 1980?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Since difficulties have been faced in movement of essential commodities to Assam by railways, a committee of officials has been constituted to review and monitor the movement of essential commodities to Assam.

Salt quota has been allotted to Assam from various sources as demanded by the Assam State Cooperative Marketing and Consumers' Federation Ltd.. The sole nominee of Assam Government for import of salt into the State. It is proposed to move salt in block rakes within the next four to six weeks to make salt available in adequate quantities.

For the month of March, 1980, 20,000 tonnes of wheat and 30,000 tonnes of rice were allotted to Assam for public distribution. Efforts are being made by railways to step up the movement of foodgrains to Assam and other north-eastern States to about 3,500 tonnes per day (one lakh tonnes per

month). During the period from 18th March to 21st March, 1980 average daily loading to these States has already picked upto 3000 tonnes.

For the period 17th December, 1979 and 31st March, 1980, Assam has been allotted 24,300 tonnes of levy sugar. By 20th March, 1980, 10,841 tonnes of levy sugar had been moved to Assam. Further despatches are in progress.

State Government has reported that during the past few months there was acute shortage of kerosene owing to closure of Digboi and Gauhati refineries. The position has now improved after commencement of production in the refineries.

According to the State Government, the entire State of Assam has been covered by the public distribution system comprising cooperatives with their retail outlets in rural areas and fair price shops and cooperatives in urban areas.

(b) Allotment of levy sugar to Assam in January and February, 1980 was 7,541 tonnes per month. According to the information made available by the State Government, allotment of levy sugar to Cachar District in January and February, 1980 was 835.4 tonnes per month.

#### **Amount spent on AIR Journey by L.I.C. Officers**

2155. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the L.I.C. Class I Officers Federation has presented a Memorandum dated 14th January, 1980 highlighting the anomalies in the pay scales, D.A., and other allowances of Class I and Class III employees;

(b) whether it is a fact that Class I employees have demanded that they may be demoted;