

and arranged relief programmes and drinking water supply. Supply of seeds and pesticides on loan are also under consideration. The Government of India allocated 750 MT of food grains under Food for Work Programmes for providing employment to the rural labourers.

(b) No such request was received from the Andaman and Nicobar administration.

(c) and (d). It has been the practice in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to supply drinking water in summer months and charge for the supply at Re. 1 per drum of 200 litres so as to ensure economy in the use of water by the public as the availability of water during summer months is very limited. In view of the drought conditions, the administration reduced the charges to 50 paise per drum. In view of the plentiful rains since 10th May, 1980 there is no shortage of drinking water now.

Foodgrains to Tripura

145. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the foodgrains are not reaching Tripura in time;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the people of Tripura are facing serious crisis; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to supply the foodgrains and essential commodities to Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c). Some representations were received from the State Government. After investigation, the factual position which was found to be generally satisfactory has been duly intimated to the State Government.

Against the average monthly delivery of 7133 tonnes of sponsored foodgrains to the State during the year 1979, the average monthly delivery during January to May, 1980 has been about 7187 tonnes. Necessary steps to increase the despatches by rail from the North Zone have also been initiated. The position is under constant watch.

Wages to Muster Roll workers of P&T Department, Tripura

146. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Muster Roll workers of the P & T Department in Tripura are getting the same rates of wages like Muster Roll workers of the State Government; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, this does not arise.

Satellite Communication Centre in Tripura

147. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start a project for Satellite Communication Centre in Tripura; and

(b) if so, when the project will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI C. M. STEPHEN). (a) Yes, there is a proposal to start a Satellite Earth Station at Agartala in Tripura State.

(b) By early 1982.