

through a number of measures which include strengthening the Public Distribution System; augmenting domestic availability through imports of commodities in short supply; curbing anti-social activities; increasing production; more efficient management of infrastructure and restraining undue expansion in money supply and bank credit.

Shortage of Essential Commodities in Garo Hills Districts of Meghalaya

798. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of essential commodities like rice, sugar, fuel etc. in the Garo Hills Districts of Meghalaya; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to improve the situation in the area?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) and (b). On account of movement constraints, created by continuing agitation in Assam, the availability of some essential commodities in North Eastern States including Meghalaya has been adversely affected. Even though the Gauhati and Digboi refineries have been working intermittently the overall availability of kerosene etc. in the North Eastern Region has gone down appreciably.

All efforts are being made to move as much of rice to the North Eastern States including Meghalaya as possible under the prevailing circumstances. In the case of levy sugar, out of total allocation of 2655.8 tonnes made to Meghalaya upto May, 1980, the total quantity lifted by FCI upto 31st May, 1980 was 2536.8 tonnes, leaving a balance of only 119.0 tonnes. In the case of kerosene some quantity had to be moved from Haldia, (West Bengal), to Silguri and from there despatched by road/rail to North Eastern States

including Meghalaya. From out of the available product, pro-rata allocations are being made to these States.

However, the responsibility of making available the supplies of these commodities to different areas of the State is that of the State Government.

Demand, Allocation and Actual Supply of Edible Oils to States

799. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) State-wise demand for edible oils, month-wise, from January to May, 1980;

(b) Statewise allocation and actual supply, month-wise from January to May, 1980; and

(c) on what basis State-wise quota per edible oils is fixed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA): (a) On the basis of data furnished by State Governments/Union Territories, a statement showing the demand for the period from January, 1980 to May, 1980 is enclosed. (Annexure I).

(b) The Statements [Statements II & III (a) to (e)] giving the required information are laid on the Table of the House. Placed in Library. See No. LT-885/80).

(c) Monthly allocation of imported edible oils to States are made by the Central Government on the basis of their projected demand and also keeping in view the lifting by them of allocation for the previous months.

Rise in Index of Wholesale Prices

800. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) rise in the index of wholesale prices (in per cent) between 1st