

that against the normal rabi cropped area of 63,12,900 acres, an area of 38,74,823 acres has been sown upto 31-3-1980. A total population of 1,49,36,000 (excluding Malda and 24-Parganas) is reported to have been affected.

(b) During 1980-81 Government of West Bengal (Department of Health and Family Welfare) have forwarded a proposal on 28-6-1980 for drinking water supply in the drought affected rural areas and sought funds of Rs. 481.2 lakhs under Drought Relief Programme. This is being considered. No request for Advance Plan Assistance for drought has so far been received from the State Government.

The requirement of foodgrains, received from West Bengal under the Food for Work Programme for the year 1980-81 amount to 2.10 lakh M.T. As per the reports received from the State Government, they have an unutilised balance quantity of 95,400 MT from the year 1979-80. In addition, the State Government have been allocated a quantity of 70,000 MT (20,000 MT under normal and 50,000 MT under special Food for Work Programme). Out of this, a quantity of 20,000 MT of rice has been released already.

Apart from this, the Government of West Bengal have requested for Rs. 7.69 crores for disbursement as short-term loan for agricultural inputs for the kharif season. The Government of India have sanctioned in the beginning of the current financial year a sum of Rs. 5.00 crores as short-term loan for agricultural inputs during khariff 1980. A further amount of Rs. 2 crores of short-term loan is being sanctioned to the State Government for kharif 1980.

Drinking water problem in rural Orissa

4140. SHRI BRAJIMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) which of the villages in the State of Orissa have been identified

as Problem Villages covered under Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply programme; and

(b) to how many of them water has already been supplied?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) 4619 villages in the State were indentified as problem villages, according to a Survey conducted in 1972 for the purpose of Central assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. The State Govt. however, indicated subsequently that the identification of problem villages was not complete. The number of problem villages identified is 26,093 as on 31-3-80.

(b) As on 31-3-1980, the number of villages fully covered is 3,526 and the number of villages which have been partly covered or where work is in progress is 8,184.

Public Call Telephones

4141. SHRI BRAJIMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many and where proposals for opening of Public Call Telephones are under consideration in the State of Orissa;

(b) how many and where Public Call Telephones have been opened in Orissa in the year 1979-80; and

(c) whether Government have considered any proposal to open Public Call Telephones in chronic flood affected areas on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) & (b). As per Annexure.

(c) No, Sir.