

which can be shifted outside, may be so shifted; but the implementation of this depends on the availability of suitable accommodation not only for the offices, in question, but also for the employees, who have already been residing in Delhi.

(b) The workload centre of CPWD units keeps on varying from time to time, depending on the location of works, which are sanctioned. At present, the bulk of the workload of the Ghaziabad Division is at the Hindon airport, which is in U.P.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

#### **Failure of Kharif Crop in Eastern Madhya Pradesh**

2618. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the failure of the Kharif crop has created scarcity conditions throughout the eastern Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the relief measures adopted by the Centre in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) The State Government have reported that Eastern Madhya Pradesh comprising Districts of Chattisgarh and Rewa Divisions have been affected by drought conditions due to failure of Kharif crops.

(b) The State Government have taken immediate steps for providing relief to affected population by opening a large number of relief works. At present 1145 scarcity works employing 173786 persons and 987 other plan and non-plan works employing 88029 persons are in progress in these districts.

A Central Team visited the State in October, 1974 to make on the spot assessment of the situation created by drought. The Government of India have sanctioned a short term loan of Rs. 330 lakhs for Agricultural inputs.

#### **Posting of C.P.W.D. Assistant Engineers and Executive Engineers to Hard Areas**

2619. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Assistant Engineers and Executive Engineers in C.P.W.D. are serving in the same region without going to hard areas;

(b) if so, the number of such Engineers yet to be posted to hard areas and the target date by which they would be sent; and

(c) what is the target date by which C.P.W.D. Engineers posted to Andaman would be withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). The number of posts of Engineers in hard areas is very small as compared to the strength of the cadre. It is not possible, therefore, to post all of them to hard areas. Officers are posted to such areas from time to time after taking into account various circumstances prevailing at any given point of time.

(c) The normal tenure of officers in hard areas is 3 years but it has been increased to 4 years in view of the restrictions imposed by Government on rotational transfer as a measure of economy. Efforts are made to transfer the officers posted to hard areas including Andamans, after completion of their tenure.