

Famine conditions in Bihar

435. **Shri Madhu Limaye:**
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri Ramavtar Shastri:
Shri Bihari Mishra:
Shri K. N. Tiwary:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government received any report from the outgoing Bihar Ministry on the famine conditions in the State;

(b) whether the outgoing Ministry formulated any plan for relief, including provision of free rations to old people, boring and supply of drinking water to cattle and human beings during the months of May and June, 1967;

(c) whether the new Bihar Ministry has asked for massive assistance from the Central Government to fight the famine conditions in Bihar;

(d) if so, the nature and total amount of the Central Assistance sought; and

(e) the decision taken by Government in regard thereto?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) to (e). The Government of India have been receiving reports from the previous Government in Bihar about the acute scarcity conditions caused by drought in Bihar and have been in continuous touch with the Bihar Government (both the old and the new) with regard to the drought situation in Bihar and the measures necessary for relief of distress. The programmes of relief include, amongst others, free supply of foodgrains to the old and the infirm people who are unable to work on the relief works and schemes for supply of drinking water both for men and cattle during the hot weather. Every possible assistance is being given by the Central Government, to the Bihar Government, for relief of distress.

However, the State Governments (both the old and the new) have not been satisfied with the quantity of foodgrains allocated to Bihar by the Central Government. The quantity of foodgrains allotted to Bihar has been progressively stepped up from 72000 tonnes in October, 1966, to 1,85,000 tonnes in April, 1967. The Bihar Government consider this inadequate. Considering the overall availability of foodgrains in the country and the needs of other areas, it has not been possible for the Central Government to make a larger allocation to Bihar.

Tourist Traffic

436. **Shri Ramachandra Ulaka:**
Shri Dhuleshwar Meena:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tourist traffic declined during the last year;

(b) if so, to what extent; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to attract more tourists?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) There was no fall in the foreign tourist traffic to India during the calendar year 1966. In fact there was an increase of 7.9 per cent over the previous year

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Supply of Rice to Kerala

437. **Shri S. Supakar:**
Shri Visudevan Nair:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rice supplied to Kerala from other States during the four months ending on the 28th February, 1967; and

(b) the per capita ration of rice in that State during these four months?