

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food (Shri A. M. Thomas):** (a) Yes.

(b) Short term loans of Rs. 103.26 lakhs and Rs. 224.788 lakhs were sanctioned by the Central Government to the Government of Punjab during 1960-61 and 1961-62, respectively, for the purchase and distribution of fertilizers and seeds for increasing production of food crops. These loans are repayable within 18 months from the date of drawal and interest is charged at the rate of 3-1/8 per cent per annum for the entire period of 18 months or for the actual period for which the loan is retained by the State Government.

**Medical Service in Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive Islands**

1755. **Shri Nallakoya:** Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is now possible for Government to depute Doctors from regular Medical Service to the Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive Islands; and

(b) if not, whether Government would consider the question of appointing a senior Medical Officer in the Islands for better Co-ordination in this matter?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju):** (a) As the proposed Central Health Service has not yet been finalised, the question of deputing doctors from that Service to Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive Islands does not arise.

(b) The Administrator, Laccadive, Minicoy and Amindive Islands, has submitted a proposal to the Government of India for the creation of a post of Senior Medical Officer. The proposal is under consideration.

**Wireless System in Laccadive and Amindive Islands**

1756. **Shri Nallakoya:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Wireless system has not yet been established in most of the Laccadive and Amindive Group of Islands;

(b) if so, what is the delay in establishing the system in all such islands;

(c) whether Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the Islanders on this account; and

(d) what action they propose to take to expedite the introduction of this system in all the Islands?

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagavati):**

(a) Out of the 10 inhabited islands in the Laccadive and Amindive Group of Islands, wireless stations have been established on 5 Islands. Installation on one more Island is in progress and three more stations are scheduled to be opened by the end of 1962.

(b) Communication facilities for these Islands are being provided under the guarantee terms accepted by the Home Ministry.

(c) Yes.

(d) Nine out of the ten Islands will have wireless communication with the mainland by the end of the year.

**Minor Ports in Andhra Pradesh**

✓ 1758. **Shri D. B. Raju:** Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether any measures have been taken recently by Government to improve the ports at Kakinada, Visakhapatnam and other minor ports at the east coast line of Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur):**

(a) and (b). The undermentioned schemes for improving the ports in Andhra Pradesh have