

famine conditions for the last four years; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Central Government to meet the food shortage there during these years?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) Eastern Districts of U.P. are very densely populated and availability of foodgrains even in normal years is not plentiful there. However, development of any special scarcity in Mirzapur District was not reported to us before September-October, 1966. Only after October, 1966, serious scarcity conditions developed in Mirzapur as well as the other eastern districts as a result of deficit rains.

(b) The assistance provided by the Central Government to the Government of U.P. to meet the scarcity conditions in Mirzapur and other eastern districts are:

Central allotment of imported foodgrains have been stepped up from 40,000 tonnes in October to about 135,000 tonnes during each month February, March and April, 1967.

- (2) 8,000 tonnes of gift wheat has been allotted to State Government for free distribution to old and the infirm in the drought affected areas.
- (3) 3,444 tonnes of milk powder has been allotted to the U.P. Government for milk feeding centres.
- (4) 70 tonnes of biscuits, 12 tonnes of dry raisins and a substantial quantity of multi-vitamin tablets, baby food, etc. have been given to the State Government for use in the drought-affected areas.

Besides, a number of voluntary organizations have started free kitchens in the drought-affected areas. The number of such kitchens functioning

in Mirzapur is 63. For this purpose 281.5 tonnes of wheat has been issued to these organizations at Government economic price and 651 tonnes of wheat has been released from Prime Minister's Drought Relief Fund free of cost.

Visit by 2-Man Team to Australia for Food Study under Colombo Plan

818. Shri Manibhai J. Patel: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a two-man team has recently visited Australia as special visitors under the Colombo Plan for Food Study;

(b) if so, the personnel of the team and the purpose for which the team visited Australia; and

(c) the results of the visit?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasaheb Shinde): (a) to (c). No Food Study Team has been sponsored by the Government of India to visit Australia. The Australian Government had, however, offered two Special Visitor awards under the Colombo Plan to enable Shri Satwant Singh, a practical farmer who is also a Director of the Food Corporation of India and a senior official of the Government to visit and study agricultural marketing practices in that country. Shri N. P. Sen, Managing Director of the Corporation was chosen in place of an official candidate. Their observations are not yet available to the Government.

#### Visakhapatnam Port

819. Shri Manibhai J. Patel: Will the Minister of Transport and Shipping be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special arrangements have been made at Visakhapatnam Port recently to facilitate the import of raw material;

(b) if so, the capacity of the Port after the arrangements; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on these arrangements?

The Minister of Transport and Shipping (Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao): (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the special arrangements recently made for the handling of the import of raw materials amounting to three to four lakh tonnes per annum for the production of fertilisers by Messrs. Coromandel Fertilisers Ltd. If so, the answer is in the affirmative. A fertiliser berth for the purpose has recently been completed.

(b) With the commissioning of the fertiliser berth, the handling capacity of the Port will increase from about 18.7 million tonnes to 11 million tonnes per annum.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 42.60 lakhs has so far been incurred for the construction of the berth, water supply, electrification and dredging. A further expenditure of about Rs. 6 lakhs is expected to be incurred towards the balance of dredging work and other ancillary works.

#### Minor Irrigation Schemes

820. Shri Abdul Ghani Dar: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount given to each State during the last five years, year-wise, for Minor Irrigation Schemes;

(b) the total amount utilised by each State during the above period;

(c) the total number of tube-wells dug in each State out of this amount during the above period; and

(d) the total amount proposed to be given to each State for this purpose during the remaining years of the Fourth Plan period?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Anandji Shinde): (a) and (b).

After the introduction of the revised procedure for the release of Central financial assistance to the States from 1958-59, the sanctions for the release of Central assistance are issued under the Heads of Development such as "Agricultural Production, Minor Irrigation and Land Development, etc." The issue of scheme-wise sanction was dispensed with since 1958-59 onwards. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate separately the amounts sanctioned by the Central Government for Minor Irrigation Schemes during the year 1962-63 and 1963-64. However, with effect from the financial year 1964-65, Central financial assistance has been sanctioned separately for the Head 'Minor Irrigation'. A statement showing the Central assistance allocated and actual assistance in respect of the State Plan for Agricultural Production, Minor Irrigation and Land Development etc. for 1962-63 and 1963-64 and for Minor Irrigation for 1964-65 to 1966-67 is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-440/67]. The assistance for 1965-66 and 1966-67 is provisional.

(c) Minor Irrigation Programme consists of various individual schemes and tubewells is one of them. A statement giving the available information about tubewells is placed on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-440/67].

(d) The size and dimensions for the remaining years of the Fourth Five Year Plan period have not yet been finalised.

#### Development of Sohana as a Tourist Centre

821. Shri Abdul Ghani Dar: Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Haryana Government in collaboration with the Central Government propose to develop Sohana, a place of hot spring in Haryana as a tourist Centre;

(b) if so, the main features thereof;