

(b) if so, whether Government are aware of the resentment and opposition to this practice by women workers; and

(c) the steps which have been taken by Government on all India basis to stop this practice ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION SHI HATHI : (a) Information is being collected from the State Governments and the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha when received.

(b) No complaint in the matter has been received.

(c) Does not arise.

P. & T. BUILDINGS IN ASSAM

3182. **SHRI R. BARUA :** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of P. & T. buildings in Assam; and

(b) whether any independent Civil wing is proposed to be set up in Assam so that building requirements and their construction may be properly and expeditiously looked after ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) A statement showing the number of P & T buildings existing at the end of Third Plan and those since constructed, under construction and sanctioned for construction is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-383 168*].

(b) A fully equipped sub-division of the Civil wing is already stationed at Gauhati to deal with construction works in Assam Circle. This is considered adequate for the present work load. As soon as there is significant increase in the work load, case for creation of a Division would be considered.

EXPORT OF RICE AND PADDY FROM ANDHRA PRADESH

3183. **SHRI G. S. REDDI :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of rice and paddy exported from Andhra Pradesh to Kerala, Mysore and Maharashtra during the period from the 15th December, 1967 to 15th January, 1968; and

(b) the quantity of milo received from the Central Government by the state during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) :

(a) Kerala 18,449 tonnes (including paddy in terms of rice).

Mysore	1,096 tonnes
Maharashtra	Nil

TOTAL : 19,545 tonnes

(b) 9,596 tonnes.

SHORT-TERM LOAN ASSISTANCE TO STATES FOR PESTICIDES

3184. **SHRI G. S. REDDI :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to revise the short-term loan assistance given to the States to meet their full requirements of pesticides as was previously being done in view of the enhanced drive for more agricultural produce and the proportionate necessity to supply more pesticides; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). Prior to 1966-67, short-term loans for the purchase and distribution of seeds, fertilisers and pesticides were being sanctioned on an *ad-hoc* basis

on requests made by the State Governments. From 1966-67 onwards, a definite procedure has been laid down for sanctioning Short-term loans for seeds, fertilisers and pesticides. Short-term loans for pesticides are now being given to State Governments to the extent of 50% of the expenditure incurred by them on the purchase of pesticides. There is no proposal to change the existing procedure.

**PRE-INVESTMENT SURVEY OF FORESTS
IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS**

3185. SHRI K. R. GANESH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any re-investment survey of the forest wealth of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has been conducted;

(b) if not, whether there is a proposal to conduct this survey; and

(c) whether in the absence of the survey, the full utilization of the Andaman forest is not possible ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB
SHINDE) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not for the present.

(c) The forest resources of Andaman Islands are being utilised to the extent possible.

**OFFICE OF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS,
ANDAMAN**

3186. SHRI K. R. GANESH : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the overtime allowance paid to the staff of the Conservator Forests in the Andaman Islands for the period from September, 1967 to January, 1968; and

(b) the reasons for which the staff was employed for overtime work ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB**

SHINDE) : (a) 776.50 (Rupees seven hundred seventy six and fifty).

(b) For disposal of immediate official work.

**OPEN MARKET SALE OF WHEAT AND
RICE IN DELHI**

3187. SHRI D. C. SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any spurt in the prices of rice and wheat in Delhi after their sale in open market was permitted; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB
SHINDE) :** (a) As compared to the level of prices when open market sale was permitted there has been no spurt in the prices.

(b) Does not arise.

**BUYING AND SELLING PRICES OF FOOD
GRAINS**

3188. SHRI LOBO PRABHU : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) The average difference between the buying and selling prices of foodgrains procured by Government; and

(b) the corresponding difference which Government allow to the trade ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
CO-OPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB
SHINDE) :** (a) The issue price of rice supplied from Central stocks is based on the pooled economic cost and the issue prices are the same throughout the country. The difference between the average procurement price and the issue price is about Rs. 17 per quintal inclusive of Rs. 7.00 approximately on account of incentive bonus and administrative surcharge payable to State Governments. For other foodgrains, however, the cost varies from State to State