

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