

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उपरोक्त प्रत्येक मद पर कितनी राशि खर्च होने की संभावना है; और

(ग) नुहूर में एक डाक-घर कब तक खोला जायेगा तथा वहाँ पर टेलीफोन सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था कब तक कर दी जायेगी ?

सूचना तथा प्रसारण मंत्रालय और संचार विभाग में राज्य मंत्री (श्री शेर सिंह) :

(क) से (ग). अतिरिक्त विभागीय डाक-घर के रूप में डाक सुविधाएं और सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन घर के रूप में वायरलेस टेलीफोनों द्वारा टेलीफोन सुविधाएं लद्दाख के नायोमा और दिस्कित (नबुरा पार्टी) में पहले ही उपलब्ध हैं।

AGITATION BY EMPLOYEES OF REGIONAL PROVIDENT FUND COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE AT PATNA

8074. **Shri S. M. Banerjee** : Will the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Patna have started agitation against the reversion of one of the officer ;

(b) whether some of the members of Parliament have approached him for his intervention ; and

(c) if so, his reaction therein ?

The Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation (Shri D. Sanjivayya) : (a) The Provident Fund authorities have reported that some of the employees of the Regional Office at Patna have been agitating against the posting of a deputationist officer as Regional Provident Fund Commissioner.

(b) Yes.

(c) The Officer is now on leave and the question of his reversion to the State Government is now under the consideration of the Provident Fund authorities.

CENTRAL AID TO KERALA FOR PURCHASE OF IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENTS AND SEEDS DURING 1967, 1968 AND 1969

8075. **Shri P. C. Adichan** : Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be

pleased to state the amount of assistance and other facilities provided by Government to the State of Kerala during the years 1967, 1968 and 1969 for purchase of improved agricultural equipments and seeds ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Anna-sahib Shinde) : Prior to the introduction of the revised procedure which came into force from the first year of the Fourth Five Year Plan, namely, 1969-70, assistance by way of loans and grants was sanctioned to the State Government under major head of development and not according to any individual scheme or group of schemes. Under this procedure, seeds and agricultural implements were included in the major head "Agricultural Production". The assistance provided to Kerala during the years 1967-68 and 1968-69 under this major head is as under :

Assistance released

1967-68		1968-69	
Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant
48.82	130.19	68.40	134.85

Under the new procedure, assistance is released by the Ministry of Finance to State Government by way of block loans and grants and are given for the annual plan schemes as a whole. As such it is not possible to furnish the amount of assistance provided to the State specifically, for projects of improved agricultural equipment and seeds during 1969-70.

Apart from the above assistance, short-term loans (Non-Plan) are also provided to State Governments. Such loans are not, however, admissible for agricultural implements. No such assistance was provided to Kerala during the last three years.

LAND FOR DANDAKARANYA PROJECT FROM MADHYA PRADESH

8076. **Shri S. K. Tapuriah** :
Shri N. K. Somani :
Shri Yashpal Singh :
Dr. Ranen Sen :

Will the Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has refused to give any land to Dandakaranya Development authority except the ravines ;

(b) whether it will stand in the way of the Ministry for the development of the area; and

(c) whether some other State has written to the Government on the subject ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Rehabilitation (Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes.

SUPPLY OF FORTIFIED WHEAT FLOUR

8077. **Shri S. K. Tapuriah :**

Shri N. K. Somani :

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

(a) whether Government have plans to supply fortified wheat flour in all the big cities of the country ;

(b) whether this is costlier than the ordinary one and if so, how much ;

(c) if reply to part (b) above be in affirmative, whether Government intend to pay the extra cost for some time to come ; and

(d) whether some foreign aid is also sought for the purpose ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde) : (a) A pilot project has been taken up for supply of fortified wheat flour in the cities of Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi.

(b) Yes Sir ; by about 3 to 4 paise per Kg.

(c) and (d). The additional cost during the pilot project stage will be borne by the Government out of P. L. 480 counterpart funds made available under an agreement with U. S. A. I. D.

SAVING IN EXPENDITURE ON UNIFORM OF STAFF OF POST OFFICES BY USING MILL CLOTH INSTEAD OF KHADI CLOTH

8078. **Shri S. K. Tapuriah :**

Shri N. K. Somani :

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting, and Communications** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 80 per cent of the expenditure on Post Offices in the country is accounted for by the staff; and

(b) whether about a crore of rupees can be saved if the staff is provided with uniforms made of mill cloth instead of khadi ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and in the Department of Communications (Shri Sher Singh) : (a) Yes. The average for the last three years is 79.8 per cent.

(b) The additional expenditure due to the use of khadi for a fabrication of cotton uniforms for P. and T. staff is estimated to be about Rs.41 lakhs only. As the encouragement of khadi is in the national interest and is part of Government policy, this question cannot be looked at from a purely limited commercial angle.

POST OFFICES IN FAR FLUNG VILLAGES

8079. **Shri S. K. Tapuriah :**

Shri N. K. Somani :

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting and Communications** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the majority of far-flung villages in the border areas still do not have post offices and people have to travel a long way to post their mail, send money orders and urgent telegrams ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and in the Department of Communications (Shri Sher Singh) : (a) The following table