

the Table of the Sabha. [Placed in Library See No. LT-526/67]. Details of food donations, if any, received from voluntary agencies abroad during 1964-65 are not readily available. The statement does not also include food donations made by voluntary organisations abroad to organisations or individuals in India.

(c) No, Sir. The Secretary General of the United Nations and the Director General of Food and Agriculture Organisation, however, issued on the 11th February, 1966, a joint appeal to the World Community for assistance to alleviate the distress caused by scarcity conditions in India.

(d) Except for some ship demurrage incurred in respect of a consignment of rice received from Italy, no foreign exchange has been spent on these gifts.

(e) The gifts of wheat/wheat flour and rice were merged in the Central pool of foodgrains for issue to consumers through normal channels of distribution. The value of gifts so distributed is being credited to the "Scarcity Relief and Rural Development Fund" which is being created. Milk powder and vitamin tablets were distributed free in the scarcity affected areas of the country.

Famine in Madhya Pradesh

*312. Shri Manibhai J. Patel:

Shri Baburao Patel:

Shri G. S. Mishra:

Shri Sidheshwar Prasad:

Shri Nathu Ram Ahirwar:

Shri Atam Das:

Shrimati Agam Das Guru

Minimata:

Shri S. S. Kothari:

Shri M. L. Sondhi:

Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 43 districts of Madhya Pradesh State 38 have been officially declared as drought-affected areas this year as

against 27 districts in the previous year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the conditions in 12 districts have become extremely alarming;

(c) the relief programme undertaken in the drought-affected areas; and

(d) the Central allocation of food-grains to the State in view of the conditions obtaining there at present?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahel Shinde): (a) and (b). The Government of Madhya Pradesh have intimated that 38 districts in the State have been affected by drought this year. 12 of the districts are severely affected. Relief measures are being taken to keep the situation under control.

(c) The following measures have been taken by the State Government to provide relief to the people affected by drought:

(1) Relief works such as roads, irrigation works, forest works etc., have been started. According to latest reports 8,63,737 persons are employed on 5,818 works.

(2) Persons too old and infirm to do hard manual labour and other deserving persons are granted gratuitous relief at the rate of 8 kgs. of foodgrains per head per month. According to latest reports 35,009 persons are in receipt of gratuitous relief.

(3) Programmes for augmenting the supply of drinking water by deepening existing wells, sinking new wells, bunding nullahs and supplying drinking water through tankers and bullock carts etc. have also been taken up where necessary.

- (4) Arrangements have been made for supply of fodder free or at concessional rates.

Apart from these relief operations, free feeding centres have also been set up with foodstuffs received from CARE, UNICEF and other voluntary organisations. The scope of this programme is being extended.

3,000 tonnes of gifts wheat, about 300 tonnes of milk powder and 11 tonnes of dry raisins have been allotted to the State for free distribution.

(d) Government of India have made the following allotments of imported wheat and milo to M. P.:—

March, 1967	35,000 tonnes
April, 1967	31,000 tonnes
May, 1967	30,500 tonnes
June, 1967	31,000 tonnes

Exodus of Population from Villages to Cities

*313. Shrimati Nirlep Kaur:

Shri Barrow:

Shri Swell:

Shri Kolal Birua:

Shri Kikar Singh:

Dr. Karni Singh:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a continuing large exodus of population from the villages to the cities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps which are being taken by Government for rural development to prevent the exodus?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Anasahib Shinde): (a) to (c). There is no evidence yet to show that there is continuing large exodus of population from the villages to the cities. Some migration of the rural population to urban areas is, however, a common socio-economic process; it may reflect lack of adequate means

of livelihood in the agricultural sector as well as response to wider employment opportunities emerging in other sector of the economy in the towns and cities.

A gamut of development programme has been undertaken under the Five Year Plans to create, maintain and expand employment opportunities in rural areas. These include, in the main, the Community Development Programme which now covers the entire country, large scale agricultural programmes, including intensive and special schemes, rural manpower programme to provide employment in areas especially exposed to high incidence of unemployment and under-employment programmes for settlement of landless, agricultural labour, and development of rural industries etc.

Bihar C.M.'s Appeal to U.S.S.R.

*314. Shrimati Tarkeshwari Shaha:

Shri Atam Das:

Shri Jader J. Malhotra:

Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Shri Meetha Lal:

Shri Y. A. Prasad:

Shri N. K. Sanghi:

Shri Badabunia Barua:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement made by the Chief Minister, Bihar in which he has urged the Soviet Union to come to the assistance of Bihar in a big way;

(b) whether any direct approach has been made by the Bihar Government to the foreign countries for the supply of foodgrains; and

(c) whether this approach has been made within the knowledge of the Central Government?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Anasahib Shinde): (a) The Government have seen Press reports to this effect.