

- (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 Kotal 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 Jaser J. Malhotra:
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:
Shri Meetha Lal:
Shri Y. A. Prasad:
Shri N. K. Sanghi:
Shri Badabrudia 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.