

Supply of foodgrains to Mizoram

207. SHRI LALSAWIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state what steps are being taken by the Government to supply adequate quantity of foodgrains to Mizoram during rainy season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): During the period January to June, 1979, a quantity of about 14900 tonnes of rice has been issued by the Food Corporation of India to Mizoram State. As on 1st July, 1979 there was a stock of 1759 tonnes of rice with the Food Corporation of India at Silchar for supply to Mizoram. Necessary arrangements have been made by the Food Corporation to ensure adequate supply of foodgrains to Mizoram during the rainy season as under:—

(i) The State Government of Mizoram has been requested by the FCI to lift stocks of foodgrains from Silchar, in addition to what is being transported by the FCI itself.

(ii) It has been arranged in consultation with the Railways to move 3500 tonnes of foodgrains per day to North Eastern States from the North Zone. The movement is already taking place at this rate and a large number of foodgrains wagons are available daily on the North East Frontier Railway.

(iii) An 'Officer on Special Duty' has been posted by the Food Corporation of India at Gauhati to maintain day to day coordination with the Railways and State Governments to ensure adequate and regular supply of foodgrains to each state, including Mizoram as far as possible.

(iv) Instructions are already there with the Railways and the FCI to ensure movement of foodgrains wagons to Silchar for Mizoram, on a priority basis.

STD facilities from Delhi to Aizwal

208. SHRI LALSAWIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to connect Delhi with Aizwal with S.T.D. facilities; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) By the end of 1981.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

209. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development have sanctioned a loan for eight major irrigation projects in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, what are the names of these projects and the criteria applied in selecting, and

(c) what is the amount of loan sanctioned in each case?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURESH CHANDRAN): (a) Maharashtra Composite Project comprising 6 major irrigation sub-projects and 2 modernisation projects is under consideration of IDA and IFAD for providing loan assistance in the Bank's financial year 1980 (July 1979 to June, 1980). The Bhima Project component of the Composite Project is likely to be financed by the IFAD for which negotiations are likely to be held simultaneously with the negotiations for the Composite Project with the World Bank. The negotiations for signing the agreements with IDA AND IFAD are likely to be held shortly.