

have the Chandari godown with them now, have reported that there has been no damage to foodgrains, due to rains, at this godown.

(b) Does not arise.]

CHIEF MINISTERS' CONFERENCE ON  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CO-  
OPERATION

656. SHRI G. R. PATIL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a conference of Chief Ministers and State Ministers for Cooperation and Panchayati Raj, recently at Madras, to discuss community development and cooperation ; and

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at at this conference ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION  
(SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) :

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The decisions/recommendations of the Conference are as in the enclosed statements. [See Appendix LXV, Annexure Nos. 37 and 38.]

APPLICATION FOR D.M.S. TOKEN

657. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK :  
CHAUDHARY A. MOHAM-  
MAD :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applicants for Delhi Milk Scheme tokens in the VIP list up to the end of March, 1968 ; and

(b) the time by when these applicants will be provided with D.M.S. tokens ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION  
(SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a)  
812 applications.

(b) With the improvement in the procurement of milk, release of milk tokens to some applicants on the V.I.P. waiting list may be possible during winter season.

ACUTE FOODGRAIN SCARCITY IN ASSAM

658. SARDAR RAM SINGH :

SHRI B. K. MAHANTI :

CHAUDHARY A. MOHAM-  
MAD :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 8th May, 1968 that according to official sources at least 75,000 people of Kamrup District (Assam) are suffering from acute foodgrain scarcity conditions ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Assam has never been a deficit area and the crop production this year has been quite satisfactory ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there has been no abnormal cut in the Central supply of foodgrains to the State ; and

(d) if so, what are the causes of the acute scarcity of foodgrains and what is Government's information regarding deaths resulting from starvation and what measures have been taken to tackle the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION  
(SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a)  
Yes, Madam.

(b) The State has been getting regular allotment of foodgrains from the Centre. Though there was some shortfall in production during the previous two years, production of foodgrains in Assam has been satisfactory during 1967-68.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The State Government have reported that in Kamalpur and Rangia circles of Kamrup district, scarcity conditions prevailed from April-May, 1968 due to consecutive floods during the last 2 years and damage of winter paddy due to drought and pests. Undertaking relief measures in scarcity affected areas is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. The Government of Assam have stated that they are alive to the situation and taking necessary relief measures. They have