

Annapurna run by the All India Women's Food Council and reduce the number of these contractors by and by?

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: As far as Annapurna services are concerned, they are already running a dining car. In fact the dining car was made specially for them and they are using that on particular trains and they are also having a contract for running a vegetarian refreshment room at one station—I think at Lucknow or so. If they come forward to run these refreshment rooms etc. certainly their request at particular stations can be considered.

SHRI S. M. HEMROM: I wanted to know about the basis of fixing of fee for there are many stalls lying which are not rented out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Buragohain.

FLOODS IN ASSAM

*227. SHRIMATI B E D A V A T I BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people affected by the recent floods in the whole of Assam;

(b) the extent of damage caused to the standing crops by these floods in different parts of the State, particularly in the Lakhimpur, Sibsagar, Goalpara and Nowgong districts; and

(c) the total amount of Central aid given to Assam for relief measures?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI): (a) 1,72,987 families.

(b) Crops worth more than Rs. 9 crores are reported to have been destroyed.

(c) Central Government have agreed to give financial aid on the lines of the relief work in Bihar i.e. 50 per cent. of the cost of gratuitous relief and

of the loss on the sale of food grains at concession rates provided that if the amount spent on these items exceeds 2 crores the Government of India's share on the excess amount will be 75 per cent. The Government of India will also advance loans for expenditure on rehabilitation loans to the sufferers from floods.

SHRI RATANLAL KISHORILAL MALVIYA: There was an alarming report in today's paper that within 12 hours the town of Dibrugarh was likely to be under water. Has Government got any report about it and the damage which has been caused?

SHRI RAFI AHMAD KIDWAI: I share with him the alarm at the Dibrugarh report but so far as the rehabilitation grants and other concessions given for the sufferers are concerned, they will be extended to them also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

LABOUR EMPLOYED BY CONTRACTORS

*203. DR. R. B. GOUR: Will the Minister for LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the All India Trade Union Congress to make all labour laws applicable to the workers employed by contractors; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring forward amendments to the various labour laws to meet the above demand of the All India Trade Union Congress?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI ABID ALI): (a) No.

(b) In all recent legislation care has been taken to extend the benefit of the legislation to contract labour. Government propose to examine all the older laws with a view to seeing what amendments are necessary.