

FAMINE IN BOMBAY STATE

*303. SHRI D. NARAYAN: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount so far given by the Government of India to Bombay State for famine relief?

(b) whether Government are aware that there is severe scarcity of drinking water in hundreds of villages in famine stricken areas of Maharashtra; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative what measures are being taken by Government for affording immediate relief?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI): (a) (i) The Government of India have sanctioned a loan of Rs. 151.3 lakhs for minor irrigation works in the scarcity areas of Bombay.

(ii) The Government of India have agreed that imported wheat issued to persons employed on relief works in the famine or scarcity affected areas of Bombay, should be charged for by the Centre at a specially reduced price of Rs. 14 per maund upto a limit of 2 lakh tons.

(b) Yes.

(c) The State Government are deepening and boring the existing wells as well as supplying water in bullock carts or, tankers to the villages where scarcity of drinking water exists.

COMMONWEALTH AGRICULTURAL BUREAU

*315. SHRI S. N. DWIVEDY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the constitution of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau;

(b) how long India has been associated with the above organisation;

(c) the amount contributed by India so far to the Bureau and what is her annual contribution thereto; and

(d) in what way India has been benefited by being associated with this Bureau?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [See Appendix IV, Annexure No. 142.]

(b) Since 1929.

(c) £ 1,38,500 and £ 8,568.

(d) The benefit accrues to scientists and research workers in the country who are enabled to keep abreast of results of research elsewhere in agricultural sciences from the regular stream of up-to-date scientific information disseminated by the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau.

LAND RECLAMATION IN TRIPURA

*317. MUNSHI ARMAN ALI: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a representation from peasants of Udupur, Tripura for reclamation of Suksagarjala; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the said reclamation, if effected will add five hundred acres of good paddy land?

THE MINISTER FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAFI AHMED KIDWAI): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

LOAN OF RICE TO CEYLON

*318. SHRI S. MAHANTY: Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rice has been loaned by the Government of India to the Government of Ceylon; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, the quantity of the rice loaned and terms and conditions of the loan?