

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) 957.

(b) A loan of Rs. 76 lakhs was sanctioned during 1961-62 for rural electrification in the Punjab. No request for Central loan assistance has so far been received from the State Government for 1962-63.

(c) Information has been called for from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha, when received.

Object of Community Development

2117. { **Shri Chhotubhai Patel:**
Shri D. J. Naik:

Will the Minister of Community and Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the main object of Community Development Scheme is more production of foodgrains; and

(b) if so, what is the assessment of increase in production of foodgrains in the year 1958-59, 1959-60 and 1960-61 in the reas covered by Community Development Blocks?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Community Development, Panchayati Raj and Cooperation (Shri Syam Dhar Misra): (a) The main objective of the Community Development Programme is to bring about all sided development of the Community but in view of the national priority concentration of effort, for the present, is on increasing agriculture production.

(b) According to the 7th Evaluation Report (1960) of the Programme Evaluation Organization on Community Development Programme there has been a general increase in the total agricultural output in Community Development Blocks. However, in view of the fact that the area under the Community Development Programme is constantly expanding and shall cover the entire country by

October, 1963, no separate assessment of food production is made in respect of Community Development areas alone. An assessment of total agriculture production is made every year for the whole country.

Aerodrome Near Shillong

2118. Shri Swell: Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to construct an aerodrome in or near-about Shillong; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken in that regard?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Bhagvati) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A proposal to construct an aerodrome near Shillong is under consideration. An estimate for the project is being prepared.

Sethusamudram Project

2119. { **Shri Umanath:**
Shri M. K. Kumaran:
Shri P. Kunhan:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri M. P. Swamy:
Shri Arunachalam:

Will the Minister of Transport and Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh estimate for the Sethusamudram Project based on the data collected so far, is being prepared by the Chief Engineer (General) Government of Madras;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for a fresh estimate;

(c) what were the defects in the original estimates;

(d) when the report is expected to be submitted and whether execution would be delayed depending on the completion and finalisation of the estimate;

(e) whether the Tuticorin Port development work and the Sethusamudram Scheme are linked together in their execution; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Shipping in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The previous estimates were not considered to be based on adequate data. It was, therefore, decided to prepare fresh estimates on the basis of up-to-date and complete data.

(d) As the data is still being procured, a final report in the matter may be expected in about a year's time. A decision with regard to the execution of the project will be taken after examination of the report and in the light of the availability of funds and foreign exchange.

(e) No.

(f) The development of Tuticorin as a major port has been taken up on the basis of the traffic of the Port.

Fair Price Shops for Rice in Manipur

2120. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fair price shops for rice now existing and yet to be opened in the current financial year in hills and plain area of Manipur;

(b) the rate at which the price of rice per maund has been fixed;

(c) the rate of concessions or the amount of subsidies granted, if any, for the fair price shops in the hill areas; and

(d) how the fair price shops are functioning?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) The number of fair price shops existing at present in Manipur valley is five and nine more

such shops will be opened if necessity arises. In the hill areas of Manipur 14 Government distribution centres are functioning.

(b) The retail issue price of rice both in the hills and plains of Manipur is Rs. 16 per maund.

(c) The subsidy varies from Rs. 5.38 to Rs. 25.22 per maund.

(d) They are functioning satisfactorily.

Procurement of Rice by Manipur

2121. Shri Rishang Keishing: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 319 on the 30th April, 1962 and state:

(a) the result of the police investigation about the export of 600 maunds of non-Andhra rice being exported under the cover of permits granted for export of Andhra rice;

(b) the action taken against the persons concerned; and

(c) whether the detected rice has been resold at the rate of Rs. 14 per maund?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): (a) to (c). The information has been asked for from the Manipur Administration and will be laid on the table of the house when received.

डिहूरी दल का आक्रमण

२१२२. श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या साहब तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उन का ध्यान उत्तर प्रदेश के राजस्व मंत्री के ६ अगस्त १९६२ को दिए गए इस भाष्य के वक्तव्य की ओर आकर्षित हुआ है कि इस साल मई के बाद में अब तक बावन टिहरी दलों ने पंजाब और राजस्थान आकर राज्य पर हमला किया जिन के फल-स्वरूप गन्ना, रुई, जूत, अरहर, बाजरा, और