

Shri B. B. Bhagat: That would have to be collected. If a separate question is put, I will get the information

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: There was a news item to the effect that special stamps would be issued for collection of premium. But just now the Deputy Minister has said that premium will be collected through agents. I would like to know whether those stamps will be sold through post offices or agents.

Shri B. B. Bhagat: Both. Also agents will go from door to door and sell stamps.

Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha: What is the expected amount of premium?

Mr. Speaker: I have already allowed a sufficient number of questions. Next question.

Rupee Stabilization Credit

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*885. { Shri Bimal Ghose.
Shri Bibhuti Mishra.
Shri Surendranath.
Shri Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are negotiating for a rupee stabilization credit from the London market,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the particulars of assistance asked for?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. B. Bhagat): (a) to (c) No such negotiations are being carried on by Government.

Shri Bimal Ghose: May I know if anything has come out of the Prime Minister's statement that he would not be averse to having a couple of hundred million pounds in the London market?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): It is true that we are willing to negotiate loans. When a question was asked of the Prime Minister by a Pressman, he mentioned

that the Indian Government would not be averse to getting a loan of £200 million, but that does not mean that we either find that the circumstances are propitious for the purpose of carrying on negotiations or we have been pursuing it since then.

Shri Bimal Ghose: Do I understand that the Government have not initiated any efforts for getting money from the London market or the American market by way of loan or otherwise to bridge our foreign exchange gap?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: These are matters which are under constant review, and I am sure my hon. friend, who knows all about it, will not expect me to put all my cards on the table. For one thing, we may not make approach in a particular quarter unless we think that there are reasonable chances of getting money. May be that in the present circumstances the London market is not one in which we could raise any money; we cannot go to that market because we have certain other difficulties as well, namely, an Indian Government loan will not now—as at present—be entitled to the trustee security status.

So far as loans in other parts of the world are concerned, small loans are being floated. For instance, we floated a loan for the Air India International, but for a very small amount. It may be that one or two Indian firms are floating loans abroad. But I am not in a position to enlighten the House beyond that point.

Shri Tyagi: A gambler will never show his cards.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Floods in Brahmaputra

12 hrs.

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S.N.Q. No. 15. { Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Hem Barua:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a serious situation has

arisen in Assam as a result of the Brahmaputra floods?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No 39]

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : इस स्टेटमेंट को देखने से यह जाहिर होता है कि १०० गांवों में इस का प्रसर हुआ है। केवल ११ गांवों में ८० हजार घादमी ऐफेक्टेड हैं, लेकिन १० गांवों के लिए कोई जिम् नही है। कुल मिला कर इस तरह से कोई २ या ३ लाख घादमी ऐफेक्टेड होंगे। लेकिन आप ने जो सहायता दी है वह १ लाख से कुछ ज्यादा है। ७ लाख ६० के करीब कोन दिया है। मैं जानना चाहता हू कि उनको आप की तरफ से कोई और सहायता दी जाएगी या नही ?

श्री स० का० पाटिल. सहायता देने का काम तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स का है। जब स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स की रिक्वेस्ट पाती है तब हम कुछ करते हैं। लेकिन प्रसन्न काम तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स का ही है।

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the devastation caused by the said Brahmaputra floods in the State of Assam is extensive and also in view of the fact that with the summer sun the snows in the Himalayan foothills melt and millions of tons of water rush headlong and hit the plains below through the Brahmaputra, may I know if Government have considered the proposal of harnessing the Brahmaputra at its original source conjointly with the Tibetan Government by diverting its excess volume of water into the shallower streams of the adjoining areas?

Shri S. K. Patil: That is also a suggestion. But, I can assure the hon Member that this is a very big question and it is being tackled in various ways. One way is to have embankments and for hundred of miles. It is no small scheme which can be finished all of a sudden. But, so far as the other part of it is concerned, it is a

matter that has got to be investigated into.

Shri Hem Barua: In view of the fact that the floods are an annual occurrence that cause great devastations in the State, may I know if the Government have cogitated any proposal to combat this Nature's war on the State on a permanent basis?

Shri S. K. Patil: We are trying to do that. But, for a river like Brahmaputra with a tremendous overflow—and it is not discharge—of somewhere about more than 2 million cusecs, it is not possible to tackle the problem as easily as is suggested. It will take over a number of years. But we are very serious about and we are tackling it.

Shri Banga: Is it not a fact that we have a Flood Committee and it is seized of this question?

Shri S. K. Patil: Yes, the Assam Government have set up a State Flood Control Board and a technical Committee.

Shri Harish Chandra Mathur: Is it not a fact that a special fund has been created at the Centre to meet such contingencies and give assistance in such cases?

Shri S. K. Patil: We have for the Second Five Year Plan period set apart Rs 7 crores as tentative allocation to Assam Rs 60 crores for the whole country.

Mr Speaker: Brahmaputra being a male is not so modest as Brahmaputri.

Floods in Kosi River

S.N.Q. No. 16. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some two hundred villages have been affected as a result of floods in the river Kosi in Bihar?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri S. K. Patil): Yes, Sir.