

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Transport and Communications (Shri Raj Bahadur): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 18.]

Shri Basumafari: What is the amount involved in the scheme?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The exact amount involved will be known after the survey as proposed by the Planning Commission will be carried out, but the preliminary estimate, which is a rough estimate made by the Czechoslovakian expert, is Rs. 124 lakhs for the portion between Shella to Shillong and the total cost of the entire project is estimated at Rs. 268 lakhs.

Shri Hem Barua: From the statement it appears that the consolidated programme submitted by the Government of Assam for a ropeway between Shella and Amingaon has been broken up into two parts, and the Government is going to give effect to one part of it from Shella to Shillong and leave the rest from Shillong to Amingaon to a future date. May I know what are the reasons for breaking up the consolidated plan submitted by the Government of Assam for this ropeway?

Shri Raj Bahadur: The primary objective that the Planning Commission had in view was that the ropeway should have enough traffic and load to carry. Therefore, it has been broken into two parts. The first part between Shella and Shillong alone will be tried in the first phase and if it is found to be successful, the second phase will then be taken up.

**Short Notice Question and Answer
Flood in Andhra**

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S.N.Q. No. 2. {	Shri Anjanappa:
	Shri M. V. Krishna Rao:
	Shri B. S. Murthy:
	Shri A. K. Gopalan:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were heavy rains during the first week of November,

1957 in Andhra Pradesh resulting in the loss of life and property;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to afford relief to the victims of floods in Andhra Pradesh?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). In the two affected districts of Nellore and Chittoor 66 persons are reported to have lost their lives. Over 1,900 heads of cattle and about 2,000 sheep were also lost; 8,217 houses collapsed or suffered damage; food grains worth Rs. 1,30,400 perished. Crops over 4,000 acres of land were damaged and 2,000 acres of land have been silted with sand. 276 irrigation works, 103 tanks and 3 irrigation canals were breached.

Relief operations have been undertaken by the State Government and, according to the procedure laid down for dealing with such calamities, expenses on specified items will be shared by the Central Government in the prescribed proportions. The immediate assistance which the Government of Andhra Pradesh have so far specifically asked for is in respect of certain medicinal and dietary articles. Arrangements have been made for the despatch of 1 lakh pounds of skimmed milk and 1 lakh sulphaguanadine tablets. A sum of Rs. 30,000 has been sanctioned from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

A full statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 19.]

The statement gives the full details and covers about four pages. I do not think you will like me to read it out.

Shri Anjanappa: As per the statement 75 major and 201 minor irrigation sources and also 7 tanks and 3 canals in Nellore District and 96 irrigation tanks in Chittoor District were breached due to heavy rains in the month of November. In view of the

deficit finances of the Andhra Pradesh Government, may I know whether the Central Government propose to give a loan or grant to the Andhra Pradesh Government for repairing these breached irrigation sources which cost much and which have to be attended to immediately, and if so, how much?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The answer is contained in para 4 of the Statement. The Central Government gives assistance to the extent of half, i.e. fifty-fifty, so long as the maximum does not go beyond Rs. 2 crores. If it goes beyond Rs. 2 crores, then the Central Government gives three-fourths, i.e. 75 per cent. of the total expenditure. That contribution the Central Government will, of course, readily make.

Mr. Speaker: What he wants to know is, in view of the deficit finances of the Andhra Government, whether the Central Government will give anything by way of loan or subsidy.

Pandit G. B. Pant: So far as that goes, if a request is received in the Finance Ministry, the Government will consider it. I have just mentioned the rule which is generally applicable to such cases.

Shri Viswanatha Reddy: May I know whether any information regarding the quantum of relief needed by the Andhra Pradesh Government has been received or not?

Pandit G. B. Pant: No; beyond what I have said, we have not received any further information. In answer to the question, the full report that was issued from the Andhra Government has been placed by me before the House more or less.

Shri Nagi Reddy: In the statement it is said that Rs. 2 crores are given and half of it is borne by the Central Government for gratuitous relief, i.e. for immediate relief, I take it. In view of the large number of tanks, both major and minor irrigation sources, that have been damaged in hundreds, would the Government immediately come to the rescue of the Andhra Government in repairing these tanks in time before the next cultivation?

Pandit G. B. Pant: The relief is given for a number of items which are mentioned, as I said, in the statement. If these items are covered, as I would like them to do, then part of the expenditure will be met by the Central Government.

Shri Nagi Reddy: That is true. The relief that is mentioned there is not the relief of the type that we have been asking for, namely, repairing of tanks and irrigation sources. These Rs. 2 crores or under, of which 50 per cent. is shared by the Central Government, is for immediate relief and the types of relief for which it would be given are also mentioned there in the statement. But nowhere in the statement I find that repairs of tanks, etc. are to be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: All kinds of relief are included there.

Shri Nagi Reddy: In the types of relief for which Rs. 2 crores or under would be granted, repair of irrigation sources is not there. Therefore, my question is, would the Central Government take into consideration this question in particular, i.e. the repair of tanks, and give immediate sanction, so that they may be repaired within the few months to come for irrigation purposes?

Pandit G. B. Pant: No sanction is necessary. But the Central Government will certainly consider the question of granting special assistance for this purpose.

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): We have already dealt with it. Day before yesterday, I had been to that place and I discussed this question with Mr. Thimma Reddy who had gone there and Mr. Gopala Reddy also. All these minor irrigation tanks which have been breached will be immediately taken up either under the G.O. to which the Home Minister has been kind enough to refer or under the minor irrigation projects of the Agriculture Ministry. We are going to see that these desilted tanks and breached tanks are repaired before

the next monsoon. I have been to the spot and had an aerial survey of the place. I could not go to that place actually. It is very near Madras, about 30 miles from Madras.

Shri M. E. Krishna: May I know what is the maximum amount so far granted to the various States which have been affected by these floods and whether the Andhra Pradesh Government will also be getting the same amount, if not more?

Mr. Speaker: The general rule has been stated.

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: No limit is fixed under that G.O. Any State Government which has to meet an emergency can go up to any amount. They can spend any amount to meet emergencies and the Government of India will meet 50 per cent. up to Rs. 2 crores and 75 per cent. above Rs. 2 crores. That is the G.O.

Shri Heda: About four or five years before, when there was a similar calamity in two other districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely, Mehboobnagar and Khammam, the Central Government was pleased to give sanction without any condition of any sharing, so far as the repairs of minor tanks were concerned. Are Government considering some such proposal this time?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Presumably Government had no rule then; it has a rule now.

Shri Tangamani: As a result of this heavy rainfall in Nellore District, the road between Gudur and Madras has been breached in many places and the direct rail track from Gudur to Madras also is dislocated, thereby causing more inconvenience to the people who are already suffering. May I know what steps have been taken for repairing these roads and also the direct rail route?

Pandit G. B. Pant: Under the rule, assistance can be given also for repairs to roads, etc.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member will kindly look into the statement.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Subsidised Hostel for Railwaymen's Children

*288. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 410 on the 29th July, 1957, and state:

(a) whether the estimate for the construction of a subsidised hostel for 200 children of Railway employees schooling at Secunderabad has since been finalised;

(b) if so, when the work will commence; and

(c) when it is likely to be completed?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): (a) and (b). An estimate for the construction of a subsidised hostel for 100 children with room for expansion for 200 children has since been prepared and is under scrutiny. The work will be taken in hand as soon as the same is sanctioned.

(c) It will be completed in about 8 months from the date it is taken on hand.

Transport Facility for Mining Association

*294. **Shri Raghunath Singh:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chairman of Madhya Pradesh Mining Association has intimated to the Government of India that in case rail transport position did not improve the mine owners will be compelled to cut down their production at the risk of retrenchment, unemployment and labour unrest?

The Deputy Minister of Railways (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan): Yes; this representation was made to the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel.

Tractor Spare Parts

*297. **Shri Mohan Swarup:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tractor spare parts especially of American