

will perhaps visit the States next month.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** I read in the papers that even the selection of the site has been left to a member of the Planning Commission, Shri Trivedi. May I know whether it is with regard to the height of the weir or with regard to the site or both?

**Shri Hathi:** As I said, both the Chief Ministers suggested that Shri Trivedi himself should decide with regard to the site etc., but it was thought that it would be proper if some officers of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and the Planning Commission should examine the question of height and whichever is economically a better site should be selected out of the two sites.

**Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:** Is it also understood that the construction of the weir will not start until the site of the dam is selected and finally settled, or is it that the construction of the weir will be started independently of the selection of the site?

**Shri Hathi:** The construction of the weir could start independently. There would be no difficulty in that. But if a site in Andhra Pradesh is selected for the dam instead of in Orissa, well, it may be that the height of the weir might have to be adjusted accordingly. But the construction of the weir would be there in any case.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** A year ago the Chairman of the Central Water and Power Commission had suggested to the Orissa Government that the project may be taken up and negotiations also could go on simultaneously with the Andhra Pradesh Government. But that was not agreed to by the Chief Minister of Orissa. Now, again, if the officials of the Ministry and the Planning Commission go and suggest it, will it be acceptable to the Chief Minister?

**Shri Hathi:** I have not followed the question.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That would be hypothetical, whether it would be acceptable or not.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** No, Sir.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** How can he say whether it would be acceptable? That would depend upon the circumstances at that moment.

**Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** The Chief Minister of Orissa rejected the suggestion made.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** It would be difficult for the Minister here to anticipate what the reaction of the Chief Minister at that time would be.

### Ghaggar Floods in Rajasthan

\*256. **Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) what damage has been caused by Ghaggar floods in Rajasthan;

(b) whether this was an avoidable calamity; and

(c) what is Rajasthan Government's view-point in the matter?

**The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi):**

(a) to (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

(a) The damages caused by the Ghaggar floods during 1960-61 as reported by the State Government are as follows:—

	Rs. in lakhs.
(1) Landed property, houses and huts . . . . .	12.00
(2) Restoration of breaches on Railway tracks . . . . . (This does not include losses to the Railway Revenue due to suspension of traffic for over a month)	3.00
(3) Destruction of Kharif crops . . . . .	15.00
(4) Damages to roads . . . . .	.50
(5) Damage to crops & houses during the winter floods . . . . .	91.00
	121.50

(b) and (c). This was not an avoidable calamity. The Government of Rajasthan share this view.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** Is it not a fact that these Ghaggar floods are only of very recent origin and that during the last 40 years we never had such floods; if so, may I know what accounts for this phenomenon?

**Shri Hathi:** The hon. Member is perfectly correct in stating that we had no floods in Ghaggar for the last several years. The records show that from 1893 to 1958, for nearly 66 years, there were no floods in this river and it was considered to be a dead river. But now, since 1958, we are experiencing floods. The apparent reasons are—I am not in a position to go into the details at present—that because of the intensity of irrigation in the Punjab area where generally the water used to spread the land cannot absorb the water which is now spreading and which used to spread. Secondly, the water table in that area has also risen up and, therefore, the water overflows.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know whether when the irrigation projects not only for Punjab but also for Rajasthan were planned these obvious facts were taken into consideration, and whether the Government has any plan to see that these floods do not occur.

**Shri Hathi:** Of course, there are plans. These factors about soil etc. are being looked into. In view of the recent experience, both the governments of Punjab and Rajasthan are contemplating taking up some schemes. They have actually prepared some schemes for control of the floods.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know what are those schemes for control of the floods, when they are going to be taken up and what will be the cost?

**Shri Hathi:** There are several schemes contemplated by the Punjab

Government, and also by the Government of Rajasthan.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** All those cannot be gone into in this brief answer.

**Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:** May I know whether it is a fact that there are still large tracts of dry land in Punjab; if so, whether there is a proposal to utilise this water for that area?

**Shri Hathi:** There is a scheme for diversion of these waters.

**Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:** May I know if there are any short-term proposals which could be put into effect immediately so that relief could be given to the flood-affected parts in this area?

**Shri Hathi:** Construction of diversion channels would be the short-term proposal, and that might give some relief.

#### उपभोक्ता सहकारी समिति

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क्या सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उपभोक्ता सहकारी समिति ने सरकार से सिफारिश की है कि वह गोदामों के निर्माण के लिये ग्रंथ पूंजी सहायता (शेयर कैपिटल सेबसिडीज़) तथा ऋण दे और प्रबन्ध व्यय में भी हिस्सा बटाये; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सिफारिश सरकार ने स्वीकार कर ली है ?

सामुदायिक विकास तथा सहकार उप-मन्त्री (श्री ब० सू० मूर्ति) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) एक विवरण सभा-पटल पर रखा जाता है। [रेखिये परिशिष्ट १, अनुबन्ध संख्या ५०] ।

**Shri Subodh Hansda:** It may be read in English also.