

heavy damage to roads including National Highways, railway tracks, telegraph wires and poles, crops and homesteads;

(b) if so, the extent of the damages caused; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet this dreadful calamity stating also the nature and the amount of relief rendered?

S.N.Q. 3. Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a great damage has been caused to the lives and properties of people, National Highways, Railway Tracks, etc., as a result of flood havoc in Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and the Punjab;

(b) if so, whether any assessment of the damage has been made by Government;

(c) the measures that have been taken by Government to render relief to the sufferers; and

(d) whether any enquiry committee will be set up to enquire into the devastation caused by floods and to suggest long-term remedies to prevent such havoc in future?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): The question put by Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy and parts (a) and (b) of the question put by Shri A. P. Sinha would be covered by a statement* which the hon. Home Minister is going to make. The information I can supply is as follows:

The Minister of Home Affairs is making a statement today regarding the general flood situation in the country and the extent of damage caused by the floods.

The Government of India have agreed to give the following assistance to Bihar Government, who have approached in this behalf:

(i) To issue wheat from Central Stocks at a concessional rate of Rs. 12

per maund, against the issue price of Rs. 14/8/- per maund, for sale in flood-affected areas;

(ii) to Bihar Government issuing rice from their own stocks for sale at a subsidised rate of Rs. 15 per maund, i.e., Rs. 4 per maund below the economic cost, the Centre bearing half the subsidy;

(iii) to sanction a grant to State Government equal to 50 per cent. of the Expenditure on *Gratuitous Relief* up to the first two crores and 75 per cent. thereafter, which will include subsidy given under items (i) and (ii) above;

(iv) the Government of India is also trying to facilitate Bihar Government to enable it to advance loans to the sufferers.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Minister can give us an idea as to how much amount of money has been so far spent by the Central Government on relief?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): The Government of India had given this authority to the Bihar Government and they will know the figure when they receive the accounts.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am asking this question: what is the total amount spent over these areas—Bihar and other areas?

Mr. Speaker: Has he not given the answer? The amount sanctioned is about Rs. 2 crores and odd. It is to be spent through the Bihar Government and they will recoup.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: What about other States?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I can mention some figures. The total amount spent or proposed to be spent for gratuitous relief in the three States is estimated to be as follows: Bihar—Rs. 158.05 lakhs;

West Bengal—Rs 4 lakhs plus 500 maunds of rice;

Assam—Rs. 2.68 lakhs.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether the Minister can give us information regarding the total extent of territory and the number of people involved as a result of these floods?

Mr. Speaker: He may await the statement. Only in respect of the points he has answered, supplementaries can be put. Otherwise, he will get the information from the statement which the hon. Minister of Home Affairs is going to make.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: May I know whether any representation by U.P. Government regarding the flood-affected areas has been received with similar request for help as has been sent to Bihar and other States?

Shri Kidwai: We have not yet received a complete report from the U.P. Government.

Shri A. P. Sinha: Is the Government aware that due to drought in 1950-51 and the floods in 1953—last year—the Government of Bihar had to spend Rs. 14 crores on relief measures?

Shri Kidwai: The Government of Bihar had to spend a large amount of money on relief in the previous years. The hon. Member himself must have noticed the change that has been made in our help. Up to last year as a rule, we agreed to pay 50 per cent., subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 48 lakhs, in regard to gratuitous relief: that is, we would not pay more than Rs. 48 lakhs. But this year the Government of India have agreed to pay 50 per cent. up to the extent of Rs. 2 crores. That is, they will pay Rs. 1 crores and in regard to whatever money is spent over and above Rs. 2 crores, the Government of India will pay 75 per cent. Therefore, we have gone much further than we had done in the previous years.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The hon. Minister for Food and Agriculture in reply to the first supplementary said

that the Government of India have authorised the Government of Bihar to make expenditure. May I know whether the Government of India have authorised the Government of Bihar to make any amount of expenditure which this emergency requires?

Shri Kidwai: We have not this time put any limit—I have explained that.

Mr. Speaker: I think we had better hear the statement of the hon. Home Minister. I find so many hon. Members anxious to put questions which are likely to be disjointed. It is better that they hear the statement of the hon. Minister in full—which I believe is likely to be fairly long—and then study it.

Shri Amjad Ali: The hon. Mr. Nanda made an aerial survey of Assam.....

Mr. Speaker: That is known.

Shri Amjad Ali: Is he prepared to make a statement?

Mr. Speaker: Let us first hear the statement of the Home Minister. It is no use confounding issues.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

BURMA RICE

*40. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of rice purchased from Burma has been received so far; and

(b) to which States this has been allocated?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Kidwai): (a) Upto 31st July, 1954, about 1.74 lakh tons of Burma rice have been received in India.

(b) This rice has been allocated as follows:

(1) Travancore-Cochin State	48,839 tons
(2) Defence	14,893 „
(3) Andamans	200 „
(4) Collieries	1,000 „
(5) Railway personnel at Goa	60 „