

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The estimated annual average damage to life and property due to flood in Bihar is as under:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Extent of damage</i>
1.	Area affected (million hec.)	1.445
2.	Population affected (million)	6.468
3.	Cropped area affected (million hec.)	0.657
4.	Houses damaged (No.)	1,49,790
5.	Cattle lost (No.) . . .	981
6.	Human lives lost (No.) . . .	84
7.	Damage to Public Utilities (Rs. in crores) . . .	30.49
8.	Estimated total damage to crop, houses and Public Utilities (Rs. in crores) . . .	97.44

(b) Execution of the relief operations in the wake of natural calamities is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. On the recommendations of the 9th Finance Commission, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been created for each State with an allocated amount, 75% of which is contributed by the Central Government as a non-plan grant in four equal quarterly instalments. The balance amount is arranged by the State Government from its own resources. Annual allocation to Bihar under State Calamity Relief Fund is Rs. 35.00 crores of which Rs. 26.25 crores is contributed by the Central Government as a non-plan grant in four equal quarterly instalments. The balance amount is arranged by the State Government from its own resources. Annual allocation to Bihar under State Calamity Relief Fund is Rs. 35.00 crores of which Rs. 26.25 crores is contributed by the Central Government for meeting the expenditure on management of natural calamities including floods.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections in Gujarat

1257. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting lists for new telephone connections in Surat, Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Baroda as on June 30, 1991;

(b) the time by which the said lists are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the number of telephone connections likely to be released to the above four cities upto December, 1991?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The no. of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections as on 30-6-91 are as follows:—

Surat	43434
Rajkot	6712
Ahmedabad	32109
Baroda	27227

(b) The 8th Plan has been formulated with an objective to provide (by the end of eighth five year plan) telephones practically on demand in telephone exchanges of capacities below 5000 lines and to contain the waiting period, on an average, to one year in exchanges of capacities of 5000 lines and above subject to availability of equipment. With this objective expansion plans are drawn for clearing the waiting list progressively during the 8th Plan period.

(c) The no. of telephone connections likely to be released upto December, 1991 are as follows:

Surat	3000
Rajkot	500
Ahmedabad	3000
Baroda	Nil