

state whether the team of officers deputed by the Government of India to study measures for the prevention of flood damage in Assam has submitted its report?

(b) If so, what are the chief suggestions made in that report?

FLOOD CONTROL

*262-A. **Shri Tushar Chatterjea:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether any requests have been received by the Government of India for inclusion in the Five Year Plan of the scheme to take permanent measures for stopping the damage by river floods to the town of Dibrugarh?

(b) If so, what action have Government taken in the matter?

(c) Has it been brought to the notice of Government that many centres of India require flood prevention measures to be immediately undertaken?

(d) What schemes for flood-control are included in the Five Year Plan, in which States and what is their total coverage?

COMMITTEE OF OFFICERS SENT TO ASSAM

*273-A. **Shri Beli Ram Das:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an expert Committee of officers was sent to Assam to investigate into the ways and means to save that State from successive floods every year?

(b) What are the recommendations of the said Committee?

(c) How far are these recommendations going to be implemented by Government?

(d) What suggestions were made by the State Government regarding the Scheme?

FLOODS IN ASSAM

*279-A. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) How many times Assam was flooded in each of the years from 1947 to 1952;

(b) the recommendations of the Expert Committee appointed by the Central Government to check recurrence of the flood there;

(c) the approximate amount of loss of property in those years; and

(d) how much extra amount over and above the usual allocation to the State is going to be sanctioned to have a permanent solution in the matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru): As the House is aware, the State of Assam has suffered considerable damage in recent years from recurring floods. In August 1952, it was announced in Parliament that a team of Central Government Officers was proceeding to Assam to study and report to the Government on the immediate problems created by the floods as well as on the long-term problems of Assam such as soil erosion, border trade, border security and disruption of communications as a result of Partition. The team led by the Home Secretary and consisting of representatives of the Ministries of Finance, Transport and Irrigation and Power visited Assam between the 26th July and the 17th of August, toured the districts of Golpara, the Garo Hills, the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and Lakhimpur, and also made an aerial flight over parts of the North-Eastern Frontier Agency where serious damage had been caused by the earthquake of 1950. It undertook, during this period, an intensive study of the special problem of erosion of Dibrugarh town and the various embankment and drainage problems in other parts of the State, as well as the problem of communications, particularly in the hill districts and on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra. The officers subsequently discussed their provisional conclusions with the Assam Government and submitted a report to the Government of India containing agreed recommendations.

2. The main recommendations of the team were the following:—

(1) A stone revetment about four miles long should be erected at Dibrugarh; this was the only permanent safeguard against erosion. The estimated cost of this revetment excluding the cost of acquisition of the necessary land would be about Rs. one crore, fifty per cent. of this cost should be provided by the Central Government as an outright grant and the remaining 50 per cent. as an interest-free loan repayable out of the proceeds of a proposed levy on the people of Dibrugarh.

(2) A beginning should be made with the collection of adequate hydrological data which would enable a long-term plan to be prepared for the prevention of erosion and for the control of floods in the State. A River Investigation Division should be set up for this purpose in charge of a suitable Executive Engineer provided by the Central Government.

(3) A contour survey should be undertaken all over Assam. A beginning should be made in the Kopili valley where a survey was partially done sometime ago.