

(c) the main causes of the frequent recurrence of floods in Manipur and the measures both temporary and permanent which have been and will be undertaken by Government to combat and control floods; and

(d) how far the food position of the State has been affected by the said flood?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) The damage caused by the recent floods in Manipur is not great. The destruction of the standing paddy crop would not exceed 5 per cent. Actual damage will be known after the field to field survey which has been undertaken is completed. No damage was done to the paddy fields themselves as apart from the crops. On the other hand, there has been improvement to the fields in many acres on account of the silt deposits carried by the flood. Eleven houses belonging to five families situated near a bridge were washed away. There was no other damage to properties. There was no loss of cattle or human life.

(b) The Government of India have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10,000 in addition to the amount of Rs. 5,000 placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner, Manipur, by the Prime Minister from his Relief Fund, for the purpose of affording gratuitous relief to the flood-affected persons in Manipur. Further an amount of Rs. 25,000 has been sanctioned for distribution of wheat seeds to flood-affected cultivators on a loan basis for sowing in rabi. Gratuitous relief in the form of rice, paddy, crushed maize, kerosene and salt was afforded to the flood-victims and a total amount of Rs. 13,000 was spent on this account. The total amount of loan granted to the flood-affected cultivators for raising an alternate crop was Rs. 27,000. Besides 43 Fair Price Shops were opened in the affected areas for the sale of rice imported from Assam at the concessional rate of Rs. 15 per maund.

(c) Located as it is, the Manipur Valley is like a bowl surrounded on

all sides by hills, from which a hundred streams carry water into it; but there is only one outlet across the Burma border into the Chindwin river in Burma for all this water to flow out. The training of the rivers would require study and examination for a long time and the Superintending Engineer proposed to be appointed in connection with the implementation of the schemes under the Five Year Plan and the Community Projects, will be asked to look into this matter as well. As regards temporary measures to check floods, the former Manipur Administration had constructed bunds along the banks of Imphal and other important rivers for protecting the crops from the overflow of water. These bunds have been improved and considerably extended by the present Administration. Also, a proposal for provision of funds during the next financial year for the construction of and repairs to the bunds is under examination.

(d) The recent floods have not affected the food position in the State considerably. Though there was rise in the price of rice in Manipur even before the occurrence of the floods, the prices were kept under control by the timely sale of rice imported from Assam, at the concessional rate of Rs. 15 per maund.

PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS IN PEPSU

57. **Shri Ranjit Singh:** Will the Minister of States be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Primary and High Schools and Colleges that will be started in the year 1953-54 in PEPSU; and

(b) the number of Primary and High Schools that will be started in the rural area this year?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): (a) (i) Number of new Primary Schools to be started in the year 1953-54 in Patiala and East Punjab States Union is 214. Besides these, the department has under consideration the opening of

700 Primary Schools during the year under Educated unemployment scheme. Out of this number 200 Primary Schools have been ordered to be opened.

(ii) 10 Basic Schools have been opened during the current year.

(iii) 4 Middle Schools have been raised to High standard.

(iv) No College will be started.

(b) (i) All the Primary Schools already opened and proposed to be opened are in rural areas.

(ii) Three High Schools have been started in rural areas.

RETRENCHMENT IN P. E. P. S. U.

58. Shri Ranjit Singh: Will the Minister of States be pleased to state the number of Government employees who have been re-employed out of those retrenched in PEPSU since March 1953?

The Minister of Home Affairs and States (Dr. Katju): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as available.