

Revenue Minister accompanied by the State Relief Commissioner and the Additional Chief Engineer made an aerial survey of the affected areas by the Vansadhara river on the 18th afternoon by the State plane. The Memorandum submitted by the State Government indicated that relief had been organised during the 18th to 20th September with the rice stock available in Gunupur. Free kitchens were also run by the local voluntary organisations and local Government officers and the Fire Services during 19th and 20th September. Nearly 15 M.T. of food packets, 500 kgs. of medicines, disinfectants, phynele anti-snake vaccine etc. were dropped on the 21st and 22nd September in Gunupur, Gudari and Kashinagar areas. After the road link to Gunupur was restored, truck-loads of foodgrains, essential commodities like tents, bamboo-talai, chuda, salt, gur were rushed. The Chief Minister reached Gunupur on 20th September and went round the flood ravaged town.

As regards the flood affected areas by the Mahanadi, all the available power boats under the State Government relief organisations were pressed into service to reach marooned and flood affected villages within hours of their distress. Air dropping of food was taken up on 22nd September 1980. Over 33 M.T. of food materials have been air dropped.

Thus it will be observed that the relief and rescue operations were undertaken in all affected areas and the entire Government machinery had been geared to provide relief to the affected people without any loss of time.

Loss due to Floods in Bihar

113. SHRI N. E. HORO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have collected information regarding the loss of life and property

due to floods in the State of Bihar recently;

(b) whether the Central Government have come forward to assist the State of Bihar in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the financial assistance provided by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) According to the reports of the State Government, the extent of damage on account of recent floods in Bihar is as under:—

(1) Area affected	-19.20 lakh ha.
(2) Cropped area affected	-9.96 " "
(3) Number of houses/huts affected	-81015
(4) Number of human lives lost.	-67
(5) Number of cattie heads perished.	-42
(6) Estimated loss to Public properties—Rs.	54 crores

(b) and (c). On the request of the Government of Bihar, a Central Team visited that State from the 28th—31st October, 1980 for an on the spot assessment of the damage caused by floods in the State and estimation of the requirements of funds by the State Government to meet the situation. The Central Team has recommended a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 26.47 crores. The proposal is under consideration of Government of India.