

Title : Regarding need to appoint an Expert Committee with a view to find permanent solution to recurrence of severe floods in Kolhapur District, Maharashtra.

(xv) Need to appoint an Expert Committee with a view to find a

permanent solution to recurrence of severe floods in

Kolhapur District, Maharashtra.

SHRI S.D. MANDLIK : Sir, in Maharashtra, Kolhapur district suffered tremendous damages due to severe flood situation in the months of July and August, 2005. Although similar flood situation had occurred in the year 1953 and 1989, floodwaters receded immediately and therefore, the damages due to stagnation of water were minimum. However, this time, the flood water did not recede for more than 20 days on two occasions thus causing widespread damages to standing crops and property. The total losses were around Rs. 1300 crore in Kolhapur District alone.

It is clear from the above fact that flood waters were not passing through River Krishna at the desired speed. The only reason for this is increased flood water level at the Alamatti Dam located at Karnataka downstream and passage of very low rate of flood discharge from this Dam. The designed flood discharging capacity of spillway of this Dam is 11 lakh cusecs while the actual discharge permitted by the Government of Karnataka was only 2.6 to 4.5 lakh cusecs during the above flood period. This has caused very heavy backwater effect causing severe flood situation in the territory of Maharashtra, especially in Kolhapur and Sangli Districts located at the boundary of Karnataka.

Through your good office Sir, the Karnataka Government should be made to look into the reason and take proper and timely precautionary measures to avoid similar occurrence in future.

It is also imperative that a permanent solution to avoid repetition of such severe flood situation is necessary by appointing an Expert Committee consisting of members from States other than Maharashtra and Karnataka and make the findings of the Committee binding on the Karnataka State.