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(ii) Flood situation in Bihar *

Title: Statement regarding flood situation in Bihar- Laid.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The flood situation in Bihar continues to be grim. As per reports received till yesterday, the river Bagmati was flowing in high flood situation at a level of 49.62 mt. With a falling trend which is 10 cm below its previous HFL of 49.72 mt. And 0.94 metre above danger level of 48.64 mt. The river Budhigandak was flowing in high flood situation 20 cm below its previous HFL and 1.56 metres above the danger level, and is anticipated to recede in the next 12 hours. The river Kosi was flowing 54 cm below its previous HFL and 2.01 metres above the danger level, and is anticipated to be steady during the next 12 hours.

Road communication on eight National Highways is disrupted at different places in the State, with flood waters overtopping the road. There was a slippage of 800 mts. On NH-31. Some of the critical national highways which have affected road communication links with Assam, different districts of North Bihar and bordering areas of Nepal are NH-28A, 31, 77 and 104.

The damage reported is as follows :-

Number of districts affected	16
Number of Blocks affected	113
Number of villages affected	3652
Population affected	94.36 lakh
Crop area affected	8.418 lakh hectares
Number of houses damaged	2.38 lakh
Human lives lost	32
Number of livestock lost	17

1209. Speech was Laid on the Table.

The State Government is carrying out relief operations. The details are as follows :-

Boats deployed	1432
Readymade food distributed	1209.49 Qunitals
Number of polythene sheets distributed	20868
Number of food packets air-dropped	23863

Assistance requested from the Central Government and the action taken:

Eight Army columns were present in Bihar on 14th July, 2004. Two columns are deployed in Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur. Four columns with 16 BAUTs have been deployed in Madhubani, Darbhanga and Samastipur districts. One task force with four BAUTs were airlifted to Madhubani.

Two additional columns with 8 BAUTs were airlifted from Bhopal to Patna on 14th July 2004 and they are en route to Samastipur district. The total number of Army flood relief columns available to Bihar now is eight.

Government of Bihar have requested for two more columns with 4 BAUTs each and they are landing in Patna on 16th July 2004.

A total of 10 helicopters have been made available to the State. This includes 3 MI-8, MI-17 and 3 Chetak helicopters.

Government of Bihar had requested for 50,000 MT each of rice and wheat for providing GR to affected people. The FCI were instructed accordingly. FCI is making available the grain from its stocks.

There are adequate stocks with the FCI in the State. As on 14th July 2004, 2.5 lakh MT of food grains was available with FCI in the State of Bihar. FCI godowns in various flood affected districts have adequate stocks of food grains.

Government of Bihar had requested for 5000 tents. 308 tents have already moved from Orissa and have reached Patna on 15th July 2004. 200 tents arranged by Government of Gujarat have been airlifted to Patna on 15th July 2004. 60 tents from CISF have been airlifted to Patna on 15th July, 2004. 60 tents from CRPF available in Mokama and Muzaffarpur have been made available to Government of Bihar.

The State Government had requested for 10 lakh pieces of polythene sheets (of 5 X 5 metre dimension) to provide temporary shelter. State Governments of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat were advised to assist Bihar in procurement of polythene sheets. Five MT of Polythene sheets have been dispatched from Gujarat and distribution has started.

The State Government had requested for 10 lakh litres of additional allocation of K-oil. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas have allocated the entire quantity. They have also indicated that further allocations can be made available as required.

The Government of Bihar had requested for 50 lakh halogen tablets. 25 lakh halogen tablets from Hyderabad were airlifted to the State on 15th July 2004. 25 lakh more halogen tablets will be made available to the State Government on 17th July 2004. A specialist team of Ministry of Health has arrived in Patna to assess the situation and advise the State Government on actions to be taken to prevent outbreak of epidemic in the flood affected areas.

Four satellite phones and onsite emergency coordination kits have been provided to the Government of Bihar by MHA. One more satellite phone has been made available to the State on 15th July, 2004. A team of five experts of ISRO/Dept. of Space along with four INMARSAT satellite phones and eight Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) phones are reaching Patna on 16th July 2004 to assist the State Government in establishing emergency communication link.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways have been advised to carry out an immediate assessment of the National Highways and take necessary measures for restoration on priority. A team of officials from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is currently doing a detailed assessment of the situation to plan for necessary restoration measures. As most of the highways are submerged at different locations, assessment and restoration is likely to be delayed.

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) have been advised to assist the Government of Bihar in procurement of fodder. Railways will provide rakes for movement of fodder. DAHD has arranged for fodder through Government of Punjab and Government of Uttar Pradesh and State Government of Bihar has made necessary arrangements with Government of Punjab and Government of Uttar Pradesh for procurement and transportation of fodder.

Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) have also been requested to provide five lakh units each of HS/BQ/FMD vaccine for cattle. DAHD has already arranged for one lakh doses of HS and 50,000 doses of HQ through Government of Uttar Pradesh and 1.7 lakh doses of BQ and 0.63 lakh HS vaccines from Jharkhand and the State Government of Bihar has made necessary arrangements for the supplies. A representative of Indian Immunological Limited is in Patna to discuss the supply of FMD vaccines keeping in view the existing cold chain in the State.

Release of funds from CRF: The State of Bihar has been allocated an amount of Rs.81.80 crore in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 2004-05 consisting of Rs.61.45 crore as Centre contribution and Rs.20.35 crore as State contribution. The first installment of the Central share of the CRF had not been released by the Ministry of Finance to the State of Bihar as the State Government had not furnished the utilization report for the year 2003-04. Keeping in view the fact that funds will be required by the State Government to carry out rescue and relief operations in flood affected areas, the Ministry of Finance have been advised to release the pending first installment of CRF of Central Share for the year 2004-05 amounting Rs.30.525 crores. The amount has been released on July 12, 2004. Taking into account the State share of Rs.10.175 crore, an amount of Rs.40.70 crore will be available to the State Government for carrying out the relief operations in the affected areas.

Aerial survey and visit of the Central Team:

The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Water Resources visited Bihar for an aerial survey of the flood affected

areas. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team is also being constituted for detailed assessment of the flood situation in Bihar and the team is likely to visit the flood affected areas immediately after the flood water has receded to an extent.

I am happy to inform you, Honourable Speaker, Sir, that with the assistance of all the Ministries of the Government of India we have been able to provide the necessary assistance to the State Government of Bihar. I would like to assure all the members that the Central Government will provide all the assistance necessary to the State.