

12.11 hrs.

## STATEMENT RE: FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): I rise to make a statement on the flood situation in the country.

In this Monsoon heavy floods have occurred in Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Some damage has also occurred in other States. The State Governments have not reported complete information on the damages sustained. However, based on the information received so far, the total area affected by floods is 37.61 lakhs hectares. A total population of 178 lakh persons has been affected and 553 human lives have been lost. The value of total damage has been placed at Rs. 260 crores approximately.

For the same period during last year the damage reported had been about Rs. 169 crores. The Statewise position in regard to floods is contained in Annexure I laid on the table of the House. The Statewise figures of flood damages are contained in Annexure II laid on the table of the House.

## Annexure—I

The south West monsoon reached Kerala on the 30th May, 1981, two days in advance and by 10th July, the entire country was under the influence of monsoon. The rainfall upto 19th August, 1981 has been above normal in the State of Haryana, Gujarat, J&K, East Rajasthan, Gangetic West Bengal and Telegana; it is deficient in Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura; while it is normal in the rest of the country.

2. These were several spells of very heavy rainfall in various parts of the country. Jaipur city in Rajasthan recorded unprecedented rainfall from

18th to 20th July, 1981. The rainfall during these days was 82 cms as against annual average rainfall of 59.8 cms. On the 19th of July, in a single day, Jaipur experienced rainfall of 35 cms. which is a record so far. This unprecedented rainfall caused heavy damage to the city of Jaipur and the surrounding areas.

Heavy rainfall was also experienced at the following places: Agra, Mainpuri, Aligarh, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Bhuj, Bombay, Indore, Ramagundum, Bhubaneswar and Titalgarh.

3. According to reports received from the State Governments floods have occurred in the States of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Delhi. The total value of damage caused by floods is reported to be Rs 260 28 crores according to the information received from the States till 22 August, 1981. For the same period during the last year the damage reported was Rs. 169.07 crores. The position regarding floods in each State is given below and the details of the damages that have been reported by the State Governments as having so far are given in the Annexure—II.

## ASSAM

The river Brahmaputra crossed the danger level at Dibrugarh on the 25th of June, 1981 and it remained above danger level till 4th August, 1981. The levels in other rivers namely, Burh, Dehing, Dhansiri, Subansiri, Manas, Sankosh, Beki, Pagladiya, Puthimari, generally remained near about danger level or somewhat higher. On the Dikow river, which is a southern tributary of the Brahmaputra, there was unprecedented rise in the water level. The historic town of Sibsagar, on the banks of the Dikow was inundated from 16th to 20th July, 1981. National Highway No. 37 was overtopped and railway communication between Sibsagar-Simaluguri was suspended. Breaches took place along the bunds

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of the river Burhidehing, Aie, Singri, Solangi, Dikhow and Boginadi, causing inundation of villages and lands behind the protective embankments.

According to latest reports received from the State Government, the main Brahmaputra river is flowing above danger level at Dibrugarh and Neamatihat in Assam, and its tributaries are also showing the same trend.

#### BIHAR

The rivers Burhi, Gandak, Bagmati, Kamla Balan, Adhwara, Kosi, Mahananda and Parman in North Bihar, and Sone, Punpun and North Koei in South Bihar have been in low to medium floods (i.e. between warning level and danger level) since 5th July. The Mahananda Western embankment was cut by the villagers, and the Mahananda Left (Eastern) Embankment was eroded near its downstream end. The necessary action to close the cut and check erosion has since been taken.

#### GUJARAT

In Gujarat, damages occurred mainly because of the heavy rains in Ahmedabad and Saurashtra region. The badly affected areas were Ahmedabad city, Kadi, and Kadi Taluka of Mehsana and Mehmedabad taluk of Kheda district covering about 116 villages.

In Saurashtra region, there was heavy rain on 10th and 11th July, causing overflowing of 53 small dams in the region. There was a breach in the Chhacha dam of minor tank in Limbdi taluka in a length of about 20 metres on account of which there were heavy damages below the dam. The work of closing the breach has been undertaken and the situation is under control.

#### KERALA

Heavy rains caused damage in almost all the districts of the State.

Two school buildings in Kozhikode and Mallappuram districts collapsed. A number of village roads were damaged in Alleppey district. Three fish curing yards were washed away in Mallappuram district. Severe sea erosion at Tenur in Mallappuram district and Sreenarayanapuram and Chauthorppin in Trichur districts has also been reported by the State Government.

#### ORISSA

According to State Government, the floods in rivers Baitarni, Burhabalang, and their tributaries affected 1.54 lakh people in 362 villages of Balasore district in the first week of July, 1981. Damage worth Rs. 8.51 lakhs was caused to 200 village roads and 14 houses were damaged. Sixteen test relief embankments were breached.

On account of the cyclonic storm on 8-9 August, 1981, the rivers Vamsadhara, Rishikulya and their tributaries including Kusumi and Malagani rivers were in floods, affecting 164 villages in the districts of Puri, Ganjam, Cuttack and Koraput. The paddy crop in an area of 14,500 hectares was submerged. River and canal embankments were breached at 163 places, and 72 roads and 128 culverts were damaged. Road communications were disrupted and telephone lines were disconnected, at various places. Three human lives were lost.

#### PUNJAB

The State Government reported that the Charan Ganga overflowed its bank on the 14th and 20th July, inundating parts of Anandpur Sahib in Ropar district. The Ropar-Nangal and Naina Devi roads breached at three places. The flood embankments along river Budhkinadi, a tributary of the Sutlej breached at three places in Ropar district on 28th July 1981. There were also reports of overflowing of 'choes in Hoshiarpur district, disrupting vehicular traffic on various roads, including Hoshiarpur - Chandigarh road.

**RAJASTHAN**

Unprecedented rain was experienced in Jaipur city from 18th to 20th July, 1981 when a total of 82 cms. was recorded. This caused considerable damage to public and private properties, roads, bridges and electric and water supply lines, in Jaipur city and its surrounding areas. The heavy rains/floods also caused considerable damage in the areas of Bikaner, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Nagaur, Banswara, Kota and Bharatpur districts of Rajasthan. Sanganer town was cut off due to overflowing of small nullahs. Many buildings including factories were washed away. Floods in the Banganga in Bharatpur district overtopped the national highway near village Malony on 19th July, 1981. The heavy discharge in river Gambhir in Bharatpur area resulted in damage to various earthen banks and bunds and also endangered Ajan bund. Morel river in Sawai Madhopur district changed its course, and, as a result, Hingonia village was washed away on 19th/20th July, 1981 and five other villages were also affected. Irrigation tanks and allied structures numbering 416 were either breached or damaged, causing extensive inundation and damage to farm land and houses.

**TAMIL NADU**

The 'Sangali Pallan' in Tiruppur town of Coimbatore district was in high floods on 10-5-81 and damaged the nearby hutments. About 620 people were affected and 161 huts valued at Rs. 1.07 lakhs were damaged. Twenty-four head of cattle were lost.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

The Ghaghra, Gandak and Rapti first crossed their respective danger levels on the 15th July, 28th July and 2nd August, 1981 respectively. However, these rivers later receded and all the main rivers in the State are now flowing below their respective danger levels. The Gandak however was flow-

ing above the danger level since the 21st August.

There was heavy rainfall in many areas of western U.P. from 29th June to 4th July, 1981. This resulted in acute drainage congestion and breaches in railway lines and road embankments.

The Turtipar-Srinagar embankment on the right bank of river Ghagra in Ballia district was under attack from the river and some spurs and studs of the embankment were damaged. However, the situation is reported by the State Government to be under control.

The Amwakhas bund on the right bank of river Gandak was overtopped in a length of about half kilometre. A spur of the embankment was also under attack by the river. However, no damage to the bund has been reported. The railway embankment along the Gandak downstream of Chitauni was under attack from the river. The position was reported to be precarious on the 9th August when the river was only five metres away from the railway embankment. However, the situation was brought under control and the railway embankment is reported to be safe.

The flood protection embankment along the Rohini river, a tributary of Rapti in Gorakhpur district, was damaged due to unprecedented rainfall in the catchment area, lying in Nepal territory. This heavy rainfall resulted in the flood level in Rohini exceeding the previous maximum recorded flood level by 1.25 metres.

**WEST BENGAL**

Heavy rainfall in the districts of Midnapur, 24-Parganas, Murshidabad, Malda, West Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, and Cooch Behar, caused extensive drainage congestion and floods. The whole of Contai sub-division and part of Tamluk sub-division in the district of Midnapur were under water during the last week of June, 1981 and in the second week of August. Irrigation and

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drainage structures and embankments were damaged, and seedlings were reported to have been totally destroyed. The State Government has reported that 1000 houses were entirely damaged and 2500 partially damaged. The sea walls at Digha in Midnapur district were severely damaged.

The low lying areas in Sonarpur-Arapanch Drainage Basin in South 24-Parganas were inundated during June-July, 1981. An area of 3.89 sq. km. was inundated at Hill Bridge site in 24-Parganas district due to spill from the river Jamuna.

The Ganga at Farakka crossed the danger level on 25-7-1981 and is still flowing above danger level. An area of about 70 sq. kms. in unprotected regions of Murshidabad district was inundated. The rivers Mahananda, Fulahar and their tributaries were also in spate during this period and inundated low lying areas in Malda and West Dinajpur districts. A stretch of 34 kms. on the left bank of river Fulahar near Kahala was seriously eroded, endangering the existing spur, apron and forward embankment. Breaches also occurred in the left bank of river Dwarka at Jurankandi in Murshidabad district.

In North Bengal, rivers Teesta and Jaldhā (Mansai) were in spate, and flooded low lying unprotected areas. River Jaldhaka also eroded some villages on its left bank in P.S. Mathabhanga in the district of Cooch Behar.

#### DELHI

As a result of releases below the Tajewala Headworks, the river Yamuna crossed the danger level on 5th August, 1981, at Delhi Railway Bridge. The left forward bund upstream of the Railway Bridge was under attack from the river current, but the situation was effectively tackled in time and brought under control. The

river has since receded and is now flowing below the danger mark. People in the low-lying areas on the river side of the flood protection embankments were shifted to safer places by the authorities.

#### DOA, DAMAN & DIU

The Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu reported in early August, 1981, that there were floods in the Bicholim river on account of heavy rains. The overflow from the river flooded Bicholim town. Fifty-two houses were damaged and 128 persons were affected.

4. As in previous years, the Central Flood Forecasting Organisation of the Central Water Commission has been providing flood forecasts for all major rivers in the country, since the beginning of the flood season this year. There are 151 flood forecasting stations in the country. In all 1500 forecasts have been issued by this Organisation so far, which have reliably predicted the flood levels at critical locations 48-72 hours in advance of the flood wave. These proved very useful for issuing timely warnings for the evacuation of population, cattle and moveable property to safer location.

5. Statistics of flood damage since 1953 show that out of the total flood prone area of 40 million hectares in the country, on an average about 8 million hectares are affected every year. The total value of the damage caused to agricultural and urban property is of the order of Rs. 300 crores. Keeping in view the widespread misery caused by floods, the flood problem has received greater attention in the recent years than in the past, so much so that the outlay on flood control during the Sixth Five Year Plan has now been fixed at Rs. 1045 crores, i.e. more than the total amount spent in the entire period since the First Five Year Plan till March, 1980. This is expected to provide reasonable flood protection to an area of 4 million hectares.

**Annexure-II**  
Statement of Flood damage based on reports received from the State Governments/Union Territories upto 22-8-1981

Name of State	Area affected in lakhs ha.	Population affected in lakhs	Damage To Crops		Damage To Houses		Cattle lost (Nos)	Human lives lost (Nos.)	Damage to public utilities (Rs. lakhs)	Total damage to crops houses & Public utilities (5+7+10)	Date of report
			Area in lakh ha.	Value in Rs. lakhs	Nos.	Value in lakhs (Rs.)					
Andhra Pradesh	0.02	NR	0.006	NR	367	NR	3	1	6.50	6.50	19-8-81
Assam	2.73	9.47	0.32	131.94	1077	2.56	194	20	2.11	136.61	17-8-81
Bihar	11.10	55.98	6.21	2555.74	33849	293.38	11	9	151.26	3001.38	19-8-81
Gujarat	0.45	6.00	0.45	65.00	29800	134.50	4552	87	1640.00	1839.50	12-8-81
Haryana	0.13	0.27	0.04	15.44	1051	9.66	17	4	NR	25.10	4-8-81
Himachal Pradesh	NR	0.003	NR	NR	NR	2.05	NR	11	NR	2.5	25-7-81
Karnataka	NR	NR	NR	0.25	4	0.06	6657	7	22.40	22.71	11-8-81
Kerala	0.25	15.92	0.25	NR	NR	52.66	14	54	2900.66	2953.32	6-8-81
Madhya Pradesh	NR	NR	NR	NR	95	NR	NR	5	NR	NR	14-8-81
Orissa	0.66	1.54	0.42	6.00	14	0.40	NR	3	8.51	14.91	10-8-81
Punjab	0.23	0.54	0.23	285.82	8178	86.15	43	5	10.68	382.65	19-8-81
Rajasthan	3.85	7.79	2.48	2480.00	72911	749.50	33430	141	1365.65	4595.15	Memo. dated 15-8-81
Tamil Nadu	NR	0.006	NR	NR	161	1.07	24	NR	NR	1.07	13-5-81
Tripura	0.03	NR	0.03	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	12-8-81
U.P.	16.37	81.56	5.50	5400.00	70632	1800.00	568	204	5558.00	12758.00	17-8-81
West Bengal	1.84	8.17	0.34	235.00	8710	37.75	1	2	15.05	287.80	16-8-81
Goa, Daman & Diu	NR	0.001	NR	NR	52	1.37	NR	NR	NR	1.37	14-8-81
Delhi	0.004	0.04	0.004	NR	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	NR	NR	13-8-81
<b>TOTAL :</b>	<b>37.614</b>	<b>187.390</b>	<b>16.280</b>	<b>11176.19</b>	<b>241863</b>	<b>3171.11</b>	<b>45494</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>11680.82</b>	<b>26028.12</b>	

NR = Not Reported.