

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West) : Sir, due to continuous rains in Tripura, all the three districts have been affected by floods which have caused serious disaster to the economy of the State.

It is reported that twelve people have died and 50 thousand people have been rendered homeless and taken shelter in 70 relief camps. Ten thousand houses have collapsed and people are in great distress. About 100 school buildings have been damaged. The heavy rains and floods have also caused extensive damage to the standing baro and aus crops. The only road like Assam-Agartala Road has been badly damaged. Total loss is estimated to the tune of Rs. 10 crores. The paddy stock in Tripura is being exhausted and the price is rising sharply. Previously, the Central Government allotted 8 thousand M.T. of foodgrains for Tripura every month but, recently, the quota has been reduced to 7 thousand M.T. which has already created a problem for the Tripura Government to maintain the regular supply of foodgrains in the ration shops and the recent floods will definitely make the situation worse.

The Chief Minister of Tripura sent message for additional allotment of two thousand M.T. of foodgrains for the month of May and enhancement of monthly quota to 9 thousand M.T. It is also mentioned that adequate stock of foodgrains are to be built up before on-set of monsoon and for which railway wagons are to be placed on priority basis.

In the circumstances, the Central Government is requested to extend help to the Tripura State Government and sanction the foodgrains as stated and adequate money so that State Government can meet the situation created out of the floods.

(xiii) Need for early completion of power projects in Bihar.

SHRI R.P. YADAV : (Madhepura) : Sir, power is the key to progress. It is the main infrastructure for industry and agriculture and thereby it can be said that the development of any place depends, solely on power position. The requirement of the country is not being fulfilled in spite of the several projects being taken in hand by the Government.

Bihar's condition is the worst and North Bihar's condition is pitiable. The per capita consumption of power in the country as a whole is 143.41 Kws whereas the consumption of Bihar is 81.28 Kwh but the per capita consumption of North Bihar is 13.43 Kwh.

If we look to the shortage of power in Bihar, we can see that in 1980-81, the shortage was 39.9 per cent in 1981-82, the shortage was 37.5 per cent and in 1982-83, the shortage was 32.2 per cent.

Under the circumstances, how can we expect the progress of Bihar, especially of North Bihar?

Hence, I will urge upon the Government to take special interest in the pending power project of Bihar, especially of North Bihar, so that the removal of regional imbalance which is being strived at by the Government can be achieved.

(xiv) Need for reopening the Birla Mills of Delhi.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa) : I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the indefinite strike forced upon 6,000 workers of Birla Mills in Delhi in protest against large scale retrenchment of workers on the plea of losses.

Since July 1982 no *badli* workers were engaged by the management. That has also been working in some of the departments only partially. By December 1982, the situation deteriorated to such an extent that three-fourth of the total work force which include permanent incumbents had to remain idle. For two month' the management even refused to pay the permanent workers their wages in time and no compensation was paid to the badli workers. The managements intend to close down the weaving departments and all the departments related to it, threatened 3,500 workers with retrenchment This led the workers to resort to a token strike after, of course, serving a legal notice. The management locked out the Mills after that. Since then the workers have been on struggle. The workers of the Birla Mills have been sitting on Dharn for a long time. The workers have decided to court arrest *en masse* near Boat Club to-day. The situation calls for an immediate intervention of the Government.