

should review the entire matter and earmark adequate money for this so that the construction activities continue uninterrupted beyond December 1982 and the project can be completed as scheduled.

A statement from the Minister for Shipping and Transport on the subject is called for.

(vi) NEED FOR TAKING STEPS TO PREVENT BREACH OF GREATER MAHANANDA BANDH IN BIHAR.

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI (Raiganj):
Sir, I received telephonic intimation yesterday (18-7-1982) from my constituency that the Greater Mahananda Bandh in Bihar area on the border of Malda District and extending from Ajimganj to Delhi-Dewanganj (about 12 kilometres) is in a dangerous state due to sudden rise of water in the adjacent river and at one point, namely, Dhubal, the bandh is on the point of breaking. If this break actually occurs, vast areas of the neighbouring Harishchandrapur and Chanchal police stations of Malda district will be severely flooded affecting more than four lakh people, not to speak about damage to crops. The Bihar area will not be much affected. The West Bengal Government have been very active and the District Magistrate of Malda and the Chief Irrigation Engineer have visited the spot and are of the opinion that immediate steps should be taken to prevent breach in the bandh at Dhubal by dropping boulders at the weak points. But the Bihar Government is indifferent and no officer from Bihar has yet visited the spot in spite of requests from West Bengal side.

I have immediately contacted the Hon'ble Union Minister of Irrigation and apprised him of the situation. Fortunately, the Minister has responded favourably saying that he has informed this position to the Irrigation Minister of Bihar for taking immediate steps. Since it is a matter of life and death of more than four lakh people in a part of my constituency,

I would like to draw attention of the Central Government, particularly the Minister of Irrigation once again to depute a Central team immediately for coordinating between the State Government of West Bengal and Bihar for taking remedial measures.

(vii) U.G.C.'s FAILURE IN RELEASING FUNDS TO UNIVERSITIES OF WEST BENGAL.

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai):
Higher education in West Bengal has been put to serious strain because of the failure on the part of the University Grants Commission to release the promised grants in time. Connected with higher education, several projects were undertaken, and expansion schemes submitted to the U.G.C., in the expectation of receipt of necessary grants reported to be promised; but the U.G.C. authorities have not complied with the assurances given. The State Government put forward a demand for Rs. 15 crores for West Bengal Universities in the Sixth Plan period, but the same has been drastically curtailed. This situation is going to pave the way for abandoning some projects already undertaken. A plan of the expansion of the Houses of the Calcutta University estimated at a cost of Rs. 7 crores, was earlier consented to by the U.G.C., but now the U.G.C. agrees to grant only a sum of Rs. 1 crore.

Under the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government to be considerate and sympathetic towards the State Government's demand for the funds required for carrying on the research and expansionary works connected with higher education.

(viii) INVESTIGATION INTO THE INCIDENT OF AIR-DROPPING OF LEAFLETS IN CHINESE LANGUAGE AND OTHER ARTICLES IN JODHPUR DISTRICT OF RAJASTHAN.

श्री अशोक गहलोत (जोधपुर) :
जोधपुर से कोई 50 किलोमीटर दूर शनिवार को रात्रि में लगभग 10 बजे एक अज्ञात