

[Shri S. M. Banerjee]

matter of urgent public importance and I request him that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Hoisting of Pakistani flag in Latitilla area of Assam on the 14th August and firing by Pakistani riflemen on Indian citizens there on the 19th August, 1963”.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Minister of Atomic Energy (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): I am afraid, I cannot give any precise information about that because we are enquiring about it. The Chief Minister of Assam made some such statement.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Prime Minister desires he may take time.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Apparently some flags were put up. It is not clear whether they were put up *suo motu* or under pressure or somebody else made them put up. A few Pakistanis were there. Therefore enquiries are being made and the Assam Government intends to take . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shall we take it up on Monday?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: If you so wish it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It will be taken up on Monday. The information has been called for.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: A statement has been made by the Chief Minister of Assam in the Assembly there and this Government does not know about it!

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Prime Minister has told the House that he has called for information from the Chief Minister of Assam. We better wait till Monday.

12.04 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT ON THE FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Dr. K. L. Rao to lay a statement on the Table regarding the flood situation.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the flood situation in the country. [Placed in the Library, see No. LT-1500/63].

In continuation thereof I wish to refer to two unhappy events of this year. Kosi is the most violent river of our country. It has been causing a great amount of destruction and devastation in North Bihar. A few years back a project was sanctioned and as a result of that a barrage was constructed and the river diverted along the flood bank. This has been responsible for the growth of prosperity in the region and ensuring a certain amount of security.

Now, the river, this year, began to attack western embankment at Dalwa about 8 miles down stream of the barrage. The first 12 miles of this embankment is in our territory and the Chief Engineer, Kosi project, has taken care to protect this embankment. I visited Bihar again on 15th and 16th August. There was a very severe erosion. The protective measures were effective on the day of inspection. Nevertheless, as a precaution, a ring bund, a thousand feet away from the river edge, was being constructed. It may be noted that the original alignment of the embankment was further away from the edge of the river. But this could not be adopted due to the local opposition of the Nepal people in that area.

Then, on the 19th, there was a very severe erosion and unfortunately there was a very heavy rainfall on the 19th and 20th with the result that the vigi-

lance could not be kept up and the protection work could not be continued. Finally, on the 20th at 8.30 P.M. Kosi waters started spilling over the ring bund of sand bags placed in front of the Dalwa sluice and started flowing along the Sagardihi Dhar, and in the morning at 2.30 A.M. on the 21st August, the newly constructed ring bund breached. The result was that about 400 cusecs of water was going down the stream. So far, there has been no trouble because 400 cusecs is a small amount. I was in contact with the Chief Engineer continuously and this morning again at 9.50 A.M. I contacted him and he tells me that there was a very heavy downpour last night, but in the morning it was clear and they have already started the work of constructing a ring bund so as to prevent flow through the breach. The discharge of water passing through the breach increased from 400 cusecs to 600 cusecs and now it has increased to 800 cusecs down the river. So far, no damage has occurred. About 1 person in 20 houses have been evacuated from the village of Dalwa which is just adjacent to the bank and taken to a safer place. There is no particular damage that has been caused. The river discharge has gone down from 2.27 lakh cusecs to 1.95 lakh cusecs. Attempts are being made to close the breach in the ring bund. If that succeeds, there will be no further damage. What we intend to do is to construct the original embankment on the alignment and for that purpose we have to request the Nepal Government to give us land along the original alignment and this alignment is to be taken up in September and when that is done, of course, the western embankment will be safe. Kosi river being such a violent one and having catchments in the Himalayas has to be controlled by constructing a reservoir. This reservoir is justified financially even from the point of power production. The reservoir is located in the Nepal territory and we require the approval and the assistance of that Government to undertake any such project.

Now, the second event that I wish to refer to is this.

Shri Tyagi (Dehra Dun): Is it not contained in the statement?

Dr. K. L. Rao: In Delhi, Jamuna river has registered a level of 672, yesterday afternoon and this is called the danger level. Danger level really means that it is a warning level. The banks and structures can withstand flood even with a much higher intensity, e.g. at 672 the amount of water passing down the river is 85,000 cusecs, whereas the river can carry anything like 2½ lakh cusecs of water. Therefore, that danger level of 672 ft. is only to indicate a sort of alarm or warning. Even so we find that a number of villages have to be evacuated. That is to say, the problem of flooding of the villages requires that something has to be done in that direction, because these are villages which are always affected being below even 672 level.

Shri Tyagi: I think the statement has been laid on the Table.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You have laid the statement on the Table, is it not?

Dr. K. L. Rao: I have laid the statement. I am giving these particulars only for the information of the House.

An hon. Member: We cannot follow it.

Dr. K. L. Rao: What I want to submit is that these villages have either to be evacuated by removing home-steads or by raising these villages.

With regard to the No. 8 diversion drain which has caused inundation of some of the Delhi villages, there has been some mistake in the construction of the regulator across No. 8. It should not have been constructed, and now it has to be constructed on drain No. 6 to regulate water into the drain.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: All that is contained in the statement, is it not?

Dr. K. L. Rao: Most of it is contained. Sir, I only wish to state finally that the major flood problems pertain to the States of North Bihar, and Eastern U.P. and Assam. Those require much more thinking. The Delhi floods can be managed with the local arrangements.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, we have had such a flood of words that we must have a gist of it at least.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The statement has been laid on the Table, plus he has made a statement. Hon. Members can study it.

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath: How can we study an extempore statement? We want a copy of it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You want a copy? That will be supplied.

Dr. L. M. Singhvi (Jodhpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not know what has happened in respect of my Calling Attention notice regarding rise of water level of the Jamuna in Delhi. Yesterday I was told that my calling attention motion in respect of the rise of the water level of the Jamuna in Delhi has been admitted and would be taken up today. It appears that the permission to table the calling attention notice was revoked in the meanwhile and I was told belatedly this forenoon that the Minister will make a comprehensive statement. I am glad that the able and distinguished Minister has made a statement on the subject of water rise in the Jamuna also. But we should be permitted to ask some questions on the subject.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A comprehensive statement has been laid by the Minister regarding floods all over the country. He has also, in addition, made a sufficiently long statement on the floor of the House. That will also be supplied to the Members. And if there are any questions, certainly I

will allow at a subsequent time. You can table questions and get any additional information you want.

Papers to be laid on the Table.

श्री योगेन्द्र झा (मधुवनी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, कोसी के तटबन्ध टट जाने से . .

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : प्रार्थर, प्रार्थर।

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT ETC.

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Finance (Shri B. R. Bhagat): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (i) a copy each of the following Rules under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:—
 - (a) The Central Excise (Fifteenth Amendment) Rules, 1963 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1273 dated the 3rd August, 1963.
 - (b) The Central Excise (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 1963 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1313 dated the 10th August, 1963.

[Placed in Library, see No. LT-1501/63].

- (ii) a copy each of the following Notifications under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 and section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, making certain further amendments to the Customs and Central Excise Duties Export Drawback (General) Rules, 1960:—
 - (a) G.S.R. No. 1206, dated the 20th July, 1963.
 - (b) G.S.R. No. 1260, dated the 27th July, 1963.
 - (c) G.S.R. No. 1261, dated the 27th July, 1963.