

tion and will be built to the design level by June, 1956. Even with the present partial level of the dam, the incoming flood in the Mahanadi was reduced by about two lakh cusecs. But for this project the damages in the delta would have been far more extensive. The dam when completed would further reduce the flood by another two lakh cusecs, thus practically eliminating damages from floods of this order.

The Orissa Government have already in hand a number of small flood protection schemes for which financial assistance is being granted by the Centre to the extent of about Rs. 20 lakhs. The Orissa Government have also prepared three major flood protection schemes to be undertaken in the areas where breaches have occurred this year.

The Central Flood Control Board is meeting shortly to consider the programme for flood control for inclusion in the Second Plan. For planning flood control measures in Brahmani and other rivers of Orissa detailed investigations are necessary, and action will be initiated in this regard as soon as the floods subside.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

STATEMENT ON FLOOD SITUATION IN ORISSA

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): In addition to the statement which I have just made, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement on the flood situation in Orissa. [Placed in Library. See No. S-327/55]

Shri B. C. Das (Ganjam South): May I request that copies of the statement may be circulated?

Mr. Speaker: Copies may be circulated.

Shri Nanda: Yes, Sir.

and will be built to the design North-East): Would you permit me to take advantage of the presence of the hon. Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power to ask him if he has any information to lay before us regarding the tragedy at Hirakud?

Mr. Speaker: I think he is going to make a statement on that.

Shri Nanda: Yes, Sir. I shall make a statement on that.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION BY A MEMBER

Dr. S. N. Sinha (Saran East): In the course of my speech on the 20th August on the Press Commission Report, I mentioned a Hindi word as if used by Shri Natesan. Subsequently I came to know that Shri Natesan had not used that word. I am sorry for having attributed use of that word to Shri Natesan.

STATEMENT RE ACCIDENT AT HIRAKUD DAM

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): I regret to inform the House that a tragic accident of serious proportions took place in Hirakud at 9-15 A.M. yesterday. Information regarding the accident was transmitted to us over the phone by the Chief Engineer, Hirakud. According to him, the staircase leading to the scaffolding which was used for carrying material on the right concrete dam collapsed. The injured persons were removed to the hospital within 20 minutes of the accident and received prompt medical aid. Out of 104 persons who received injuries, 13 died. Thirteen others who received minor injuries have been discharged from the hospital after treatment. Out of the 78 persons who are still in the hospital 5 or 6 have received serious injuries and it is expected that the rest will be discharged in a day or two.