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LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part II—Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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LOK SABHA

Friday, 23rd September, 1955

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I)

12 Noon

FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): I made a statement on this subject on the 13th September. The statement that I have just laid on the Table of the House covers the period between the 13th September and the 21st September, that is a day before yesterday. This statement has been based on reports that we have received which indicate that the situation has improved in all the areas affected. We have, however, received further reports that North Bihar and Eastern U.P. are experiencing fresh floods. Since, during the last 2 days further information has been received about the recurrence of these floods, I would like to share it with the House. We contacted the State authorities last night, and this morning.

According to the report received from the district authorities, Muzaffarpur, the flood is falling in Champaran district and is slightly rising in Muzaffarpur, which would soon reach Samastipur. Floods in August last were more widespread owing to high level in a number of rivers but the present floods are only in two rivers

namely the Bhagmati and the Burighantak. It has now been raining in that area for the last 2 days. If the flood water drains off quickly, paddy crops in low-lying areas may be saved. Flood relief operations are in full swing, and everything possible is being done by the State Government in this connection.

As regards U.P., the State Government have reported that there is no appreciable change in the flood position in the eastern districts; although heavy rains have stopped in most of the districts, still showers continued till yesterday in certain districts. Relief operations are being continued. Further amounts are being allotted by the State Government for flood relief work.

Sir, I may add that a redeeming feature of the situation this year is the fact that the flood protection works carried out during the last working season have satisfactorily withstood the onslaught of the floods. This strengthens our hope and confidence in the programmes that are now being worked out for the ensuing and subsequent seasons. A note, on these programmes has already been circulated to the Members of Parliament. We are going to have a discussion on these proposals on the 27th September. The Central Flood Control Board will meet on the 6th October.

Shri M. P. Mishra (Monghyr North-West): Can we get copies of the statement?

Dr. S. N. Sinha (Saran East): May I have some clarification, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: He may put questions when we raise the debate.

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