

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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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.

[Shri Nanda]

The Chief Engineer has appointed a technical committee consisting of two Superintending Engineers for spot investigation of circumstances in which the accident occurred. The Chief Minister, Orissa, who has been consulted agrees that the accident is so grave that the proper course would be to appoint an independent Committee of Enquiry. We shall immediately appoint such a Committee. We are issuing instructions to Projects that immediate steps should be taken for examination of all structures with a view to ensuring safety during construction. We are taking in hand all other necessary measures for preventing recurrence of such accidents in the future.

I have conveyed through the Chief Engineer, Hirakud to the injured workers and to the families of the deceased my deepest sympathies. I have also asked the Chief Engineer to render all help and assistance to the injured and to make an immediate payment of Rs. 200 to each of the bereaved families on an *ex-gratia* basis. The amount so paid will be exclusive of any amount that may be admissible to them under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

**Shri H. N. Mukerjee** (Calcutta North-East): May I know if the inquiry contemplated is a judicial inquiry or a departmental inquiry?

**Shri Nanda:** It will be of a judicial character.

**Shri Kamath** (Hoshangabad): Character?

**Mr. Speaker:** Yes.

**MOTIONS RE: DISPLACED PERSONS COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION RULES—contd.**

**Mr. Speaker:** The House will now resume discussion on motions relating to the Displaced Persons Compensation and Rehabilitation Rules, 1955. Out of 5 hours allotted for the general discussion, about 2 hours and 15

minutes were availed of yesterday. This means that the general discussion will be over by about 1-45 P.M. today when the detailed consideration of motions will be taken up, for which 7 hours have been allotted. A list of motions intimated yesterday has already been circulated to Members.

In view of nearly half the time having been taken up—and there are, I find, a member of hon. members desiring to speak—though I do not wish to be strict, I should think that the time taken by each Member should, ordinarily, be 15 minutes, but not exceeding 20 minutes in any case. I am basing this calculation on the basis of the time taken by hon. Members who addressed the House yesterday.

The following is the list of motions which the hon. Members have indicated to be moved:

Rule No.	Motions Nos.
2	57, 166
7	58, 131, 167, 59, 182
17	109
19	110, 60, 61, 171
21A to	
21F (New)	111
22	62, 136 (same as 62), 112, 63, 137, 64, 65, 138 (same as 65), 66, 139
23	67, 68, 172
24	69
25	113, 70, 98, 114, 183
26	77, 115
28	99
29	40, 140 (same as 40), 41
32	116
34	42, 141 (same as 42)
35	43
36	44, 142 (same as 44), 117, 45, 118 (same as 45), 143 (same as 45 and 118), 46, 144 (same as 46)
37	47, 145 (same as 47), 100, 173
40	48, 146 (same as 48)
41	49, 119
42	50, 120, 101
42A (New)	51, 71, 147 (same as 71), 72
44	121