

HINDU SUCCESSION BILL

The Minister of Legal Affairs (Shri Pataskar): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to amend and codify the law relating to intestate succession among Hindus, pending in Rajya Sabha.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPROTANCE

STARVATION IN FLOOD-STRICKEN DISTRICTS OF U.P.

Shri S. L. Saksena (Gorakpur Distt. North): Under Rule 216, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Food and Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"starvation in flood-stricken districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh."

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. P. Jain): According to information available with the Government, there is no starvation in the flood stricken areas of Gorakhpur, Deoria, Basti and other districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. It is also not correct that the State Government have stopped distribution of gratuitous relief in flood affected areas in Uttar Pradesh.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh took precautionary measures as early as in May i.e. three months before floods, to meet the flood manace. A sum of Rs. 1,60,000 at the rate of Rs. 10,000 was placed at the disposal of 16 usually flood-affected districts including Basti, Deoria and Gorakhpur for making advance arrangements and for providing relief in case of necessity. Flood posts were established equipped with essential articles such as gram, gur, salt, match boxes, kerosene oil, medicines and fodder for the cattle.

A sum of Rs. 1,95,000 was also placed by the Chief Minister at the disposal of certain districts including Basti, Deoria and Gorakhpur for construction of buildings to provide shelter to persons affected by floods.

This year's floods were caused by very heavy rains for 4 days from 19th to 22nd July, 1955. This resulted in

tremendous water logging in such areas which were served by small rivulets and local rivers which could not drain off this huge quantity of surplus water in reasonable time. This could not be averted despite steps taken by the State Government in advance in May this year. The latest information, however, shows that the position is improving everywhere.

The amounts so far given to the districts by the State Government for help in the flood affected areas are given below:

	(Rs.)
Gratuitous Relief	22,00,000
Subsidy for reconstruction of houses	10,50,000
Subsidy for Bhusa	1,85,000
Taqavi under Act XII including reconstruction of houses (interest free).	1,09,03,860
Loans to Non-agriculturists for reconstruction of houses (interest free).	10,50,000
Allotments out of the CM's Distress Relief Fund for construction of houses in the flood affected areas.	1,95,000
Allotments from Prime Minister's Relief Fund.	77,500
TOTAL	1,55,47,860

In addition Rs. 6 lakhs have been sanctioned for test works.

Arrangements had been made to rush stocks of foodgrains, salt, sugar etc., to these districts. Milk powder is also being distributed to children and infirm people. Stocks of wheat and jowar purchased on behalf of the Central Government were released for distribution in consultation with the Government of India at the concessional rate of 3½ Seers per rupee for wheat and 5½ seers per rupee for jowar. All the incidental charges for handling and transport etc. were being borne by the Government. About 85,000 maunds of wheat and jowar have so far been sent by the U.P. Government to flood-affected districts. The movement of foodgrains through trade channels has also been quite substantial with the increase in the availability of foodgrains in the market and the demand for foodgrains from Government shops has decreased to some extent.