

[Secretary]

join in the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, and resolves that the following Members of the Rajya Sabha be nominated to serve on the said Joint Committee, namely, Shri K. P. Madhavan Nair, Shri Ram Chandra Gupta, Shri Braja Kishore Prasad Sinha, Shri Bhalchandra Maheshwar Gupta, Shri Jagannath Kaushal, Shri P. S. Rajagopal Naidu, Shri Ratanlal Kishorilal Malviya, Shri Lavji Lakhamshi, Shri S. Channa Reddy, Shri Akhtar Husain, Shri Rajpat Singh Doogar, Shri Satyapriya Banerjee, Janab M. Muhammad Ismail Saheb, Shri Radhakrishna Biswasroy, and Shri Narsingrao Balbhimrao Deshmukh."

#### PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE

##### STATEMENT re: FLOOD SITUATION

**The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda):** I beg to lay on the Table of the House a statement regarding the flood situation in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal. Developments in Uttar Pradesh subsequent to my earlier statement on the 2nd August have also been incorporated in this statement. This statement covers various aspects of the situation, such as causes of the floods, progress of flood control measures, floods in 1955, the effect of works already undertaken, and the future programme. [Placed in Library. See No. S-259/55.]

With your permission, in addition to the statement I have laid on the Table of the House, I would like to bring out just a few salient features.

As the House is already aware, the disastrous floods of 1954 brought home to us the imperative need of tackling the menace of floods in the country, in a co-ordinated and planned manner. Till then, no systematic attempt had been made to undertake flood-control

measures, or even to collect the basic technical data without which no sound flood-control programme could be prepared. The Central Government took the initiative in the matter last year, and as envisaged in the comprehensive statement on floods, which I laid on the Table of the House on 3rd September 1954, special organisations were set up both at the Centre and in the States affected or threatened by floods, for formulating flood-protection schemes in an integrated manner, and for implementing them speedily.

There was only one working season available (from October 1954 to June 1955) to carry out the emergent works after checking the designs on the basis of the data collected, carrying out experiments where necessary, and preparing the estimates. Within the short period, work on emergent schemes was completed as programmed, and satisfactory progress was achieved on others. Work on the collection of hydrological and rainfall data in the Himalayan catchments of the rivers flowing into India has been simultaneously proceeding apace. Negotiations have been concluded for the purpose with the neighbouring Himalayan countries.

The Nepal Government have agreed to the installation of ten rain-gauge stations in the Terai area. The Sikkim Government have permitted the installation of an observatory at Gangtok. The Bhutan Government have permitted the immediate setting-up of ten river-gauge stations, and eight wireless stations. The Chinese authorities, at our request, have arranged to send out wireless messages from Lhasa, giving river-gauge and rainfall readings in the upper reaches of the Brahmaputra in Tibet. These messages give an advance notice of about fifty hours of impending floods in the river. Aerial photography and spot-levelling have been done to the extent of about 26,000 square miles, and 7,700 square miles respectively.

in the course of one season, a good deal of preliminary work has been done, which would ensure greater speed in the execution of works during the next season.

In Assam, the town protection works at Dibrugarh and Sualkuchi, and temporary protection works at Palasbari were completed. In Bihar, a total length of 235 miles of embankments was constructed, of which 70 per cent. was done through public co-operation. This is in addition to the work done on about 50 miles of embankments along the Kosi, in respect of which full details were given in the statement that I laid on the Table on the 25th July 1955.

In West Bengal, works were undertaken to protect the towns of Jalpaiguri, Siliguri, Alipurduars, Cooch-Behar and Mathabhanga. Work was also started on an embankment on the left bank of river Teesta in Jalpaiguri district.

All these works were done in one working season under great pressure. Even so, the works completed have, by and large, withstood the floods very well, and afforded reasonable protection. The spurs erected at Dibrugarh have not only stopped the erosion of the bank but also enabled the accumulation of a wide bank of silt. The embankments on both the banks of the Brahmaputra in Kamrup and Goalpara districts have protected the homes and fields of a large proportion of the people living there. I have been informed that the general atmosphere in the State is much more encouraging than during the last year, and that there is much less nervousness than on the last occasion. In Bihar, the flood embankments constructed have afforded protection to an area of about 1,000 square miles. Further, the Kosi embankments, though not complete, have, it is understood, already conferred benefits in parts of Purnea district by preventing inundation, and thereby promoting a good crop of jute and rice. It has been reported that certain areas which

were relatively safe so far have suffered severely from floods this year. This situation will have to be carefully examined.

The extensive flood damage that has occurred in this State arises more from the sustained nature of the flood than its intensity. Though this year the flood is smaller than was the case last year, it covers a more extended period. The works in West Bengal have also withstood the onslaught of floods but for two breaches, which we are informed were due to the unprecedented level of the flood waters overtopping the embankment. In Uttar Pradesh, as I said on an earlier occasion, the floods this year were of an unusual character. Nevertheless, the State Government have confirmed that the works which were undertaken during the last season have given the expected relief.

I have no reason to be dissatisfied with the progress made on flood control works during the space of eight to nine months. While a great deal still remains to be done to achieve for the people of the country the maximum immunity from flood risks, it will be seen that an effective start has been made to tackle the problem of floods on a planned basis. We shall now consider the further programme of works to be executed during the following working seasons. The observations made during the floods of this year, and the experience of the season, will be utilised in preparing the designs, and in working out details of the schemes to be undertaken. Special attention will be paid to the drainage and other problems which have been brought to light. Then Central Flood Control Board will be meeting shortly to consider the programme for flood control prepared by the Central Water Power Commission for its inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan. I can assure the House that every possible step will be taken for the timely completion of the flood control schemes.

**Shri S. L. Saksena** (Gorakhpur Distt.—North): May I know when this House can discuss the flood situation in the country? I would request that a date may be fixed for the purpose so that this House may give its opinion and its suggestions before the Flood Control Board meets.

**Mr. Speaker:** Which report is the Hon. Member referring to?

**Shri S. L. Saksena:** The Hon. Minister has just stated that the Central Flood Control Board will meet very soon. I hope the House will meet before that, and give its suggestions on the various aspects.

**Shri Nanda:** That Board is likely to meet in the middle of September.

**Shri A. P. Sinha** (Muzaffarpur East): In view of the importance of the document regarding the flood situation in these four States, a copy of it should be made available to each one of us.

**Shri Nanda:** That will be done.

**Shri S. L. Saksena:** When can we expect that debate to take place? It should be before the Flood Control Board meets.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Board is meeting in the middle of September, and the House is sitting during that month. Then we shall consider whether there should be a debate on the flood situation. First, let us have collection of all facts, as the Hon. Minister is saying.

#### STATEMENT ON GOA

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** Before I make a brief statement about certain developments in the North East Frontier Agency, with your permission, I should like to give some later figures in regard to Goa, i.e., in further correction of the figures I gave yesterday. These relate to the occurrences that took place on 15th August.

Yesterday I mentioned that 15 persons were known to be dead and 20

were still missing; others had returned, many being injured. Later information states that of these missing 20, 10 more have returned. There are 10 still not fully accounted for. But it is our information that 7 out of these 10 were shot down and are dead—this was on the 15th. Thus, the figure of deaths may now be presumed to be 22. There are 3 persons missing now. Of these, one, we know, is detained by the Portuguese Government. About 2, we do not know whether they are detained or where they are. The total figure of injured is 225, of whom about 38 are said to have serious injuries.

#### STATEMENT RE. NORTH EAST FRONTIER AGENCY

**The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru):** May I now read the statement about the North East Frontier Agency?

A number of questions have been asked in the Lok Sabha recently about the situation in the Tuensang division of the North East Frontier Agency. During the last few months, there have been sporadic outbreaks of violence by certain elements on the borders of the Naga Hills district and the south of the Tuensang division. These consisted of ambushes in which some Assam Rifles men as well as a number of tribal interpreters and other villagers were killed, some school buildings, houses and some villages were burnt, and medical supplies were looted. Government thereupon sent two companies of the Shillong Brigade in May this year for garrison duty at Tuensang to relieve Assam Rifles for rounding up the violent elements. Troops were used only for garrison duties and not for operations.

Some days ago, we received further information about some of these Nagas who were indulging in violence and arson. They had adopted hit and run tactics. The Political Officer of the Tuensang Division, who is himself