

[Shri Jawaharlal Nehru]

gation Committee of Enquiry. However, the fact that Hong-Kong was the last airport touched by the aircraft and that the time-bomb could be placed in the aircraft only within a limited period preceding the explosion leads to the conclusion that it could be placed in the aircraft only at Hong-Kong. The Hong-Kong authorities have been holding a separate enquiry to determine the culprits responsible for the crime. The Chinese Government have collected some definite information about the conspiracy and they have placed this at the disposal of the Hong-Kong Government. Several persons have been arrested, but the enquiry has not yet been concluded.

The report of the Investigation Committee shows that the crew of the 'Kashmir Princess' carried out their duties calmly and efficiently during the tense moments before the disaster. The President in recognition of the exemplary courage and self-sacrifice displayed by the crew of the Constellation—in particular, Captain Jatar, and the air hostess, Miss Berry—has posthumously awarded Ashoka Chakra Class I to Captain Jatar, and Ashoka Chakra Class II to the air hostess. Captain Dekshit, the co-pilot, has been awarded Ashoka Chakra Class II and the other members of the crew have been awarded Ashoka Chakra Class III.

I take the opportunity to pay a tribute to the heroism displayed by the deceased members of the crew as well as the survivors in the face of imminent peril. Air India International has paid generous compensation to the heirs of the deceased and to the three surviving members of the crew.

The Government of India are thankful to the Government of Indonesia for the careful and thorough enquiry carried out by the Committee appointed by them and for the ready co-operation extended by them in all matters concerning this unfortunate disaster.

We are also grateful to the Indonesian Navy and the British Navy for the successful salvage operations which have resulted in the recovery of most of the wreckage.

We hope that the Hong-Kong enquiry will soon come to a successful conclusion and result in the apprehension and punishment of those who are responsible for this dastardly crime.

FLOODS IN UTTAR PRADESH

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement regarding floods in Uttar Pradesh. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 23].

And may I, with your permission, add a few words, giving a brief account of the situation on the basis of the latest reports and my personal survey?

On receiving reports regarding serious floods in the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh, I immediately carried out a personal inspection of the affected areas by air, and discussed the situation with the Chief Minister and the Minister of Irrigation, Uttar Pradesh.

In the previous years, floods were caused generally by the Rapti and the Ghagra, which are the 'problem' rivers of Uttar Pradesh. The worst floods this year have, however, been caused not by the Rapti or the Ghagra, but by two other small rivers, the Tons and the Gomti, which, over a very long period, had given no signs of their destructive capacity. According to the Uttar Pradesh Government, the rise of the water in these rivers has no parallel in recent times. At Azamgarh on the Tons, and Jaunpur on the Gomti, the highest flood level recorded as far back as 1871, i.e. 84 years ago, was exceeded this year.

Although floods are a recurring feature in Uttar Pradesh, the experience this year is of a wholly unusual character. The Tons and the Gomti are

small rivers which take their rise in the plains of Uttar Pradesh. The catchment area of these rivers was subjected to exceptionally heavy rainfall ranging from 18" to 24" in the course of four days during the week ending July 23rd. This is three to four times the normal rainfall for the entire month of July. At Marya near Jaunpur, as much as 14.8" of rain fell on one day. It was impossible for these rivers to drain off, as bigger rivers would have done, the enormous quantity of water which was precipitated during this short period. The waters, therefore, overflowed the banks and inundated vast areas. Essentially, this is the consequence of lack of quick and adequate drainage.

Amongst the towns affected by the floods in these rivers are Akbarpur and Azamgarh. In Azamgarh, a protection bund built many years ago gave way. A big bridge between Azamgarh and Ghazipur has been reported to have collapsed on the 30th of July, and this breach in the road caused temporary flooding in the lower areas. In the Gomti Valley, the towns of Sultanpur and Jaunpur have suffered badly. Due to heavy and incessant rainfall there was widespread water-logging in Allahabad and Rae Bareilly districts. Extensive areas were inundated in Basti and Gorakhpur districts. A spill of the Gandak into the Rapti in the Nepal area caused a breach in the old Maloni bund, six miles downstream of Gorakhpur on 30th July, resulting in the inundation of a few villages and low-lying outskirts of Gorakhpur town.

A precise assessment of the damage caused by the floods is not possible at this stage, but it is clear that crops over large areas have suffered considerable damage and lakhs of people have been rendered homeless.

Though complete immunity from risks arising out of excessive local rainfall concentrated in a short space of time may not be easily available, we can reduce these risks and the consequent damage to the minimum by concerted action to improve the drainage of the area. The most important

step in this direction is to remove obstructions which hamper the free flow of water. Existing towns may be protected by ring bunds. Siting of villages on raised ground and proper planning of towns on the basis of thorough contour surveys has become imperative surveys and investigations have to be carried out to enable these measures to be undertaken. Instructions have been issued to ensure that this work is carried out expeditiously.

I was greatly impressed by the sense of urgency and earnestness displayed by the U.P. Government in evacuating the people affected by floods and in giving them relief. Their officers and staff have been given full authority and the means to provide aid and succour wherever required.

Vigorous steps have been taken by the U.P. Government to make up the leeway in the matter of collection of hydrological data. Reconnaissance surveys and ground surveys including levelling for Rapti and Ghagra basins are proceeding apace. The Ghagra has been surveyed for a third of its length already, whilst spot levelling has been done in an area of nearly 2,400 sq. miles in 8 districts of eastern U.P. For determining the alignments of bunds, levelling has been done over a distance of 450 miles. Aerial photography has been completed in respect of an area of 4,400 sq. miles and photo-mosaics are ready for nearly a third of the area. About 40 new gauge and discharge sites have been established, in addition to 30 existing stations in eastern U.P. Arrangements are in hand for establishing 44 new rain gauge stations in the area. Investigations are under way for locating a suitable storage site on the Rapti.

Schemes costing about Rs. 4.5 crores have been approved so far by the U.P. State Flood Control Board. During 1954-55, the construction of 21 works estimated to cost nearly Rs. 3 crores was undertaken. These works, on which satisfactory progress has been made, relate to the construction of marginal embankments, raising of the level of village sites in the flood affected areas and construction of protective

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works like revetments, spurs, etc. The Chitauni bund on the Gandak constructed in the last working season has prevented inundation over an area of nearly 1.5 lakh acres notwithstanding the fact that the Gandak has already experienced this year a flood of 5.6 lakh cusecs. The raising of the level of the village sites has given effective protection to nearly 600 villages.

"I may add that I intend to make a further statement on the flood situation in Bihar, Bengal and Assam in the course of the next few days.

DELHI JOINT WATER AND SEWAGE BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration".

Under the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926, the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board supplies filtered water in bulk to various local bodies in Delhi and receives payment from all of them of the actual cost of supply with the exception of the Delhi Municipal Committee, to which special treatment has been given in accordance with the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 12 of the Act.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair.]

The Delhi Municipal Committee has to make payment for a minimum of 1460 million gallons of water or for the actual supplies at the final rate of issue or at the rate of 3 annas per thousand gallons, whichever is less. Under the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 12 of the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, the Central Government were made responsible for payment of the excess of the final issue rate, if it is higher than 3 annas per thousand gallons. Up to 1948-49 the final issue rate did not exceed 3 annas

per thousand gallons, but since then the rate has risen, and because of this increase in rate, the Central Government have been paying very large sums of money on this account from year to year. The rise in the rate is due to increased cost of materials and payment of higher rates of pay for the establishment based on the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission. It is considered that there is no justification for the Government undertaking an indefinite and recurring liability of this kind in the case of the Delhi Municipal Committee alone, especially when other local bodies in Delhi pay their full dues to the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Boards. The present Bill seeks to relieve the Government of India of this liability by deleting the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 12 of the Act.

The Act also requires amendment for another purpose. Sewage effluent is supplied to a number of private individuals for cultivation purposes at certain rates by the Board. In recent years, a number of these persons have defaulted payment to the Board. In order to facilitate recovery of charges due to the Board from such defaulters, they should be made recoverable as arrears of land revenue.

So the proposed legislation envisages the following amendments to the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926: (1) the liability of the Central Government under the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 12 is extinguished, and (2) charges due to the board from persons other than local bodies may be recovered as arrears of land revenue.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Joint Water and Sewage Board Act, 1926, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration".

Shrimati Sucheta Kripalani (New Delhi): This Bill has a very limited object, as has just been stated by the hon. Deputy Minister of Health. It