

THE

Dated 19.11.2014

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers)

OFFICIAL REPORT

2439

2440

HOUSE OF THE PEOPLE

Saturday, 2nd August, 1952

The House met at a Quarter Past
Eight of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Short Notice Question and Answer

OFFICERS' VISIT TO STUDY FLOOD
DAMAGE IN ASSAM

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the team of officers to visit Assam for studying its special problems such as measures against flood damage etc., as promised in the Finance Minister's speech during the debate on the voting of Demands for the Ministry of Finance on 3rd July 1952 has since been appointed;

(b) if so, who are the members thereof;

(c) what are the departments which they represent;

(d) when are they likely to proceed?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c)—

- (1) Shri H. V. R. Iengar, Ministry of Home Affairs (Leader).
- (2) Shri P. C. Bhattacharyya, Ministry of Finance.
- (3) Shri H. P. Mathrani, Consulting Engineer Roads, Ministry of Transport.

Mr. G. R. Garg the Irrigation Engineer has already gone there. One or two other officers might also go later.

206 P.S.D.

(d) They are going at the request of the Assam Government on the 5th August, that is, they were to have gone earlier but about a few days ago, the Assam Government requested them to come a little later, as they were not quite free to deal with them these days, as they were busy with some other activity.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Is it a fact that due to the silt carried by the Brahmaputra as a result of the great earthquake and floods, the rivers have become dammed and that the tributaries cannot discharge their waters into the Brahmaputra and therefore, the tributary beds are also rising and one of the causes of these extensive high floods all over Assam is as a result of this?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir. As a result of the earthquake, all kinds of transformations take place in river beds and in the flow of rivers and those are continuing and very difficult problems have been raised.

This team of officers that I have mentioned now is not obviously going simply because of these floods. The Ministry of Finance or the Ministry of Home Affairs cannot advise us about the floods. This team was really decided upon before the floods came in. For a variety of problems affecting Assam, we wanted to deal with them quickly, so as to avoid the delay of correspondence. Then the floods came and we sent one or two engineers there and another engineer is added to these two, so that the whole problem might be seen on the spot and reported to us.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: Have any statistics been kept of the damage suffered by the people of Assam, both on the Government side as well as the public side due to the floods and ever since the earthquake, for the last 2 or 3 years?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: By the floods only or by the earthquake? By what? It is all mixed up. A great deal of damage was done by the earthquake and by the subsequent floods that year and some damage was done. It is very difficult to make an estimate. At least I have not seen any estimate.

Jonab Amjad Ali: Is it left to the officers to decide which part of Assam they would visit?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is largely decided by the Assam Government. The officers go to the Assam Government and confer with them, and in consultation with them, they visit various places with the Assam officers.
