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Title: Statement regarding flood situation in Assam – Laid.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has made a request and I am permitting him to lay the statements on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House the following:

- i. A statement regarding flood situation in Assam;
- ii. A statement regarding flood situation in Bihar; and
- iii. A statement gang-rape of three dalit women on 8.7.2004 in Bhomtola village, Seoni District, Madhya Pradesh...(Interruptions)

12.01 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

(i) Flood situation in Assam*#

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : Sir, 24 out of 27 districts are reported to be affected by floods. River Brahmaputra and its tributaries are still flowing above danger level in Kamrup, Goalpara, Dhubri, Darrang and Nagaon districts. In Nalbari district, all the rivers are flowing above danger level. The road communication to Nalbari from all sides still remains disrupted. In Kamrup district fresh areas of Hajo have been inundated. In Karimganj district also, rivers Langai and Kuchiara are rising and low lying areas have been inundated. In Sonitpur, Sibsagar and Cachar districts, the water level in the river including in Barak, show a receding trend. In Morigaon district the river Brahmaputra is also receding slightly. In Bongaigaon district, water levels of river Airmanas and Brahmaputra are static. In Jorhat and Chirang districts, the rivers show a receding trend.

Although most rivers are showing a falling trend, some parts of the State have received moderate rainfall on 14.07.2004 and due to this the flood situation in all the flood affected districts remains unchanged.

The damage reported is as follows:-

Number of villages affected	6425
Crop area affected	4,68,000 hectares
Total population affected	50 lakh
Human lives lost	17
Houses damaged	Approx. 4 lakhs

Vital installations, telephone lines, educational institutions, electric sub-stations and other Government installations are reported to have been badly

* Speech was Laid on the Table

Also placed in Library. See No. LT 264/04

damaged. Around 1.5 km. of dyke on the Brahmaputra at Malahu has been breached. Flood waters have also affected Kaziranga National Park and 3 hog deers and 2 pythons have died. The new areas inundated in Assam are – Kamrup (Hajo area), Golaghat (Bokakhat area), Dhubri, Darrang, Lakhimpur, Hamren and Morigaun. In Karimganj district a breach on the Dyke of river Kochua has taken place affecting 110 families. Most of the rural roads are reported to be badly damaged.

Traffic on NH-31, NH-44 and NH-53 remains disrupted due to overtopping and landslides at various points. A 20-metre breach on NH-31 between Nalbari and Barpeta has been restored. Road communication from Barpeta to NH-31 is also cut off due to a breach in the State PWD road.

The broad-gauge link north of Brahmaputra to Guwahati has been restored but it continues to be under the danger of being disrupted because of flood waters. The railway link between Rangia and Dhemaji (north of Brahmaputra)

continues to be disrupted and is not likely to be restored before the 30th of July. The railway link south of Bramhaputra is operational. The rail link between Lumding to Badarpur and Rangiya to Tezpur is disrupted. The rail link between Lumding to Badarpur is expected to be restored by this evening.

The State Government is carrying out rescue and relief operations. 1296 numbers of relief camps have been opened. Gratuitous relief has been provided to 2,75,864 persons. 51717 quintals of rice, 5779 quintals of dal, 665 quintals of chira, 1681 quintals of salt and 120 quintals of gur have been distributed as gratuitous relief. The Government have sanctioned an amount Rs. 50 crores to districts for providing relief to the flood affected people as well as to different departments for taking up immediate restoration of roads, bridges, embankments etc. and for distribution of medicines and fodder to the flood affected areas; installation of hand tube-wells for drinking facilities, and restoration of power installation damaged in recent floods.

Assistance requested from the Central Government and the action taken: The State Government had requested for 7 helicopters. The helicopters have been made available to the State Government. These helicopters have been positioned at Guwahati, Tejpur, Dibrugarh, Jorhat and Silchar as requested by the State Government.

Assistance is being provided by the Army for relief and rescue operations as follows:-

- 3 composite flood relief columns are providing assistance in Nalbari
- 3 composite flood relief columns are providing assistance in Kamrup district
- 1 composite flood relief column is operating in Darrang district with 4 BAUTs.
- 1 composite flood relief column is operating in Nagaon district
- 1 composite flood relief column is operating in Kokrajhar district with 2 BAUTs.
- 3 composite flood relief columns are operating in Goalpara district with 5 BAUTs.
- One composite flood relief column is operating in Morigaon district with 4 BAUTs.

The State Government had requested for 25 more number of BAUTs. 23 BAUTs from Pune and Bangalore have reached Guwahati. With this, the total number of BAUTs available in Assam for rescue and relief is 46.

About 120 rakes of goods are still lying backed up for entry into Assam and other North Eastern States because of the slow movement of traffic on the broad gauge link north of Bramhaputra and the need to give priority to mail and express trains. The rake movement for civil supplies has now been started. Government of Assam have indicated the priority for the movement of essential commodities by rail. Ministry of Railways has started movement of rakes as per the priority given by Government of Assam.

Unloading of rakes carrying food grains at Barpeta, Guwahati and Gosaigaon sidings is affected due to partial submergence of the sidings, damaged approach roads to the siding and lack of space in the FCI godowns. FCI is expediting unloading of rakes by creating more godown space through road bridging. Unloading of rakes at seven other terminals in NE region is going on smoothly. The Department of Food has been advised to expedite movement of stock by road to different States of NE region. It is expected that the rakes will be released by FCI swiftly in the next few days.

Department of Food as well as the Ministry of Railways have confirmed that there is at least one month's supply of food grain available with Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura and Nagaland. The total stock of food grain in North-East is reported to be more than two lakh MTs. For Assam, 1.44 lakh MT of food grains is available with FCI in Assam. Similarly there are adequate food grains with FCI in other NE States.

The road bridging between Guwahati siding and Meghalaya/Jaintia Hills and beyond is ongoing. Around 120 trucks carrying food grains are on road and the road to Sonapur and Jaintia hills is likely to be cleared by today evening as reported by DG (BR). It may be noted that around 600 trucks are held up on the road and DG (BR) has been advised to make the road completely operational for heavy vehicles.

Government of Assam have requested for setting up six bailey bridges for restoration of Road communication. The restoration of culvert/bridge on NH-31 at 1059 km. near Rangiya, which was washed away in floods, will be taken up by National Highways Authority of India and in case, any assistance is required, Engineer-in-Chief, Army HQ will provide necessary assistance. For other five locations where bailey bridges have to be set up immediately, Engineer-in-Chief, Army HQ have the requisite capacity and will take up the work immediately after receiving necessary requisition from the State Government. The Government of Assam has been advised accordingly.

Normal routine operations of movement of 40 to 50 trucks of food grains every day from New Guwahati to Silchar, Tripura and Mizoram is continuing.

The State Government had made a request for 50 lakh halogen tablets; 50 lakh packets of ORS; 500 MTs of DDT and 200 MTs of bleaching powder. 25 lakh halogen tablets have been airlifted and provided to Government of Assam, on the 15th of July. Another consignment of 25 lakh halogen tablets will reach Guwahati on 17th July 2004.

As against the requirements of 50 lakh ORS packets, 10 lakh ORS packets will be provided to Government of Assam in next 4 days, with the first consignment of 1.5 lakh packets slated to reach Guwahati by the 17th July evening. Ministry of Health will assess the requirement of bleaching powder and supply the required quantity to the State. Government of Assam currently have 1049 MTs of DDT available with them, which is meant for indoor residual spray. Ministry of Health have further advised that carrying out indoor residual spray during the flood situation is not considered to be operationally and technically desirable. Ministry of Health will obtain the details of micro-action plan for DDT spray from the State Government and a view on additional supply of DDT will be taken thereafter.

The Ministry of Health have sent a Central Team to the flood affected areas of Assam to advise the State on the action to be taken to prevent outbreak of epidemics. This team is currently visiting flood affected areas.

A team of four experts of ISRO/Dept. of Space along with Four INMARSAT Satellite phones and Eight Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) phones are reaching Guwahati on 16th July 2004 to assist the State Government in establishing emergency communication links.

The Department of Drinking Water Supply was requested to dispatch a team to Assam to assess the drinking water situation. The Dept. of Drinking Water Supply has received a feedback from State Government that the drinking water situation is completely normal.

The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas have reported that they have released 4000 MT of K-Oil as an additional allocation to the State of Assam. Government of Assam have further requested (through the Resident Commissioner, Assam) for additional allocation of 6000 MT of K-oil has been lifted against the first allocation of 4000 MT, further allocations will be released depending on lifting.

Funds from CRF/NCCF: The first instalment of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 46.26 crores was released on the 12th of July. Taking into account the State share of Rs. 15.42 crores the total funds available on this account comes to Rs. 61.68 crores. In addition, a sum of Rs. 55 crore has been released from the NCCF on an ad-hoc basis on the 13th of July. The above releases will make available an amount of Rs. 116.68 crores to the State for carrying out relief operations.

Aerial survey and visit of the Central Team: The hon'ble Union Minister for Water Resources visited Assam on the 15th July for an aerial survey of the flood affected areas. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team is also being constituted for detailed assessment of the flood situation in Assam and the team is likely to visit the flood affected areas immediately after the flood water has receded to an extent.

I am happy to inform you honourable Speaker, Sir, that with the assistance of all the Ministries of the Government of India we have been able to provide the necessary assistance to the State Government of Assam. I would like to assure all the Members that the Central Government will provide all the necessary assistance to the affected State.