

fact what information you have, before which statutory tribunal or authority performing judicial and quasi-judicial functions is the matter pending because, to our knowledge, there is no case filed in the criminal court yet; only investigations are going on. Secondly, the only committee which is alleged to be inquiring into the matter is of some legislative Members just as Members of Parliament; that is not a statutory body. I would, therefore, like to know what is the information you have, before which judicial body the matter is pending because of which it is *sub judice*. That is all.

MR. SPEAKER : The Bihar Government has reported that a chargesheet has been filed in the matter before a criminal court.

STATEMENT RE: FLOODSITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Barnala. You may lay the statement on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA) : I lay on the Table of the House a statement regarding the flood situation in the country and the steps taken by Government to meet the situation.

STATEMENT

During 1977, the South-West monsoon set on the Indian Peninsula at about the normal time. It hit the Kerala coast during the first week of June, and then advanced and spread over the entire country by the first week of July. The rainfall during the current monsoon so far has been above normal in Gangetic West Bengal, Southern Bihar Plateau, Haryana, Delhi, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Maharashtra, Rovala-seema area of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep and coastal Karnataka. Large excess of over 50% above the normal has been recorded in the State of Punjab, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and parts of Gujarat and West Bengal.

Damage due to floods :

According to reports received from the State Governments, floods causing considerable damage have occurred in parts of Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal and Delhi. States have undertaken necessary relief and rescue operations in the affected areas. A detailed assessment of the damage is yet to be made by the State Governments. How

ever, preliminary reports received so far indicate that an area of about 17.5 lakh hectares and a population of about 61 lakhs have been affected. Crops over an area of 7.73 lakh hectares and 69,663 houses have been damaged, 148 human lives and 458 cattle heads lost. The enclosed statement gives preliminary assessment of flood damage made by the States so far. It will be seen therefrom that during the first half of the monsoons this year, damage due to floods has not been very heavy.

Assam :

Four waves of floods, all of medium intensity, have occurred in Brahmaputra and its tributaries. During the last week of May and first week of June, there was disruption of road traffic and the railway bridge on Beki river, a small rivulet in Darrang District, collapsed resulting in an accident to the Tezpur Express. Due to a cloud burst in the vicinity of Jorhat town and floods in the Toklai, parts of the city and surrounding areas were inundated. Water and power supply and telephone system were disrupted. Army was called in to assist the civil authorities in rescue operations. During the subsequent floods, the rivers Subansiri, Dhansiri, Puthimari, Manas-Beid, Kopili and also Brahmaputra inundated some areas. Flood embankments were affected in certain reaches and river banks eroded in isolated locations. Erosion took place on Majauli Island affecting protection dyke at Ohutguri in some places. The PWD Bungalow and Wireless Transmitter stations were affected. Floods in the Barak basin during the first week of June affected 358 villages; low-lying areas of Karimganj town were submerged.

According to the latest reports, the state Government have indicated that crops over an area of 2.15 lakh hectares were damaged: 34 human lives and 141 cattle were lost. The State Government spent Rs. 63.95 lakhs on gratuitous relief.

Gujarat :

There were heavy rains in the State during the last week of June affecting parts of Kutch, Rajkot, Junagadh, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Mehsana, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Kheda, Panchmahal, Vadodra, Bharuch, Surat and Valsad districts. Banaskantha and Mehsana districts again experienced heavy rains during the last week of July. According to the reports received from the State Government, a population of 9.68 lakhs has been affected in 1587 villages.

Haryana :

Due to continuous heavy rains, the Sahibi river and Drain No. 8 were in spate.

[Shri Surjit Singh Barnala]

Jhajjar Ring Bund breached on the night of July 31/August 1 when the flood waters entered the town. Help of the Army and Home Guards had been obtained and the breach has since been plugged on 3-8-1977. Arrangement for pumping of the accumulated water from the town is being made. Over 550 villages in six districts involving a population of over 10 lakhs have been affected. An area of about 5.3 lakh hectares including cropped area of 60,000 hectares is reported to be inundated. Four hyman lives and 21 cattle have been lost and 3646 houses were damaged.

West Bengal:

Following heavy and incessant rainfall during the last week of July considerable areas were affected in the districts of 24-Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Midnapore, Hoogly, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Burdwan and Howrah districts. There was drainage congestion in Bankura, Birbhum, Malda, Purulia and parts of Calcutta.

River Teesta, Mansai, Torva, Mahananda in North Bengal and Bandloi, Dwarka, Bhagirathi, Kunoor, Rupnarain, Old Kossy, Ajoy, Kaliaghai, Jallangi, Munde-wari and Kaple-wari in Southern Bengal were in low to medium floods. These caused damage to protection works, erosion and breaches in embankments at a number of places. State's preliminary assessments indicate that an area of 9.5 lakh hectares in 12 districts has been affected damaging crops in an area of 2.23 lakh hectares. 54,700 houses were damaged, 12 human lives and 77 cattle lost. The State Government undertook relief and rescue operations sanctioning about Rs. 225 lakhs for these measures.

Punjab:

During the second week of July, 1977, due to prolonged rain, all choes in Hoshiarpur, Jullundur and Amritsar districts were in flood causing damage to kacha houses and roads. Nine human lives and 63 cattle heads were lost. Crops valued at Rs. 22.3 lakhs and 653 houses valued at Rs. 4.86 lakhs were damaged.

Karnataka:

Due to heavy rains in the coastal districts there has been inundation in a number of places and the traffic on the National Highway No. 17 has to be closed for a day on 19th July, 1977. Nine villages were affected due to heavy floods in North Kannada and Mangalore. There was also flood in the Netravati river in South Kannada district during the last week of July, 1977. Some areas in Bijapur district was also affected. 318 houses were damaged.

Delhi:

River Yamuna was in floods during the last week of July 1977 when it crossed the danger level for the first time this year. As a result, a number of villages, resettlement colonies and some other colonies of Delhi were affected by floods. Following heavy rainfall in the catchment of Sahibi river, there was heavy flow into the Dhansa lake which recorded level of 212.92 metres at 8 A.M. on 4th August against the danger level of 212.5 metres and top of Bund at 214.00 metres. The Delhi administration are raising the Dhansa Bund by about a metre to provide temporary additional storage. About 2000 men are working at it, including 1000 Army jawans. A threat has also been posed to Najafgarh Jheel Bund. About 200 labourers are working to strengthen the bund since the morning of 3rd August. Almost continuous rainfall in Delhi has caused problems of drainage congestion and water logging in various parts of the city. Concerted efforts are, however, being made by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to pump out water from the water logged areas. A number of houses have been damaged and house collapses have caused loss of six human lives. In addition, three persons died due to drowning and two got electrocuted. The Corporation of Delhi has decided to give Rs. 500/- each to the families of the deceased and Rs. 250/- each to persons who are seriously injured.

Arrangements regarding evacuation of villages and their livestock from the flooded areas, provision of food supplies of essential items, medical care, maternity care and other relief measures have been made by the Delhi Administration. Large areas under crop have been affected by these floods but the exact assessment of the damage is yet to be made by the Delhi Administration which is currently busy with flood fighting and relief operations.

Kerala:

No damages due to floods have been reported in Kerala. However, during the monsoon season this year, coastal erosion has been particularly severe in several reaches along the coast. The loss to coconut plants, house sites and houses has taken place in areas where no sea-wall has been constructed. Some importance structures like the light house at Bepur in Calicut District are in peril. The areas severely affected are Poonthura, area in front of Indian Rare Earths Factory, Chavara, Alleppy, Challanam, Azhikode, Manakadavu, Chamakkala, Chettuvai, South Pier at Calicut, Madakkara, Chaliyam, etc. The extent of erosion is on the average of about 10 metres width, but has gone upto 30 metres width in Chamakkala. The severely affected portion is about 20 kms. in length. It has been assessed that the loss due to erosion is about Rs.

2.5 crores on account of loss of coconut plantations, houses and house sites, damage to protective works already undertaken, etc. In areas where damage is severe and important structures are likely to be affected, temporary measures have been taken up pending construction of regular sea walls. These measures include protecting with sand bags, sand embankments, rubble mounds, etc., to protect important structures. Such action has been initiated in Chaliyam, Challanam Madakara, etc.

Rajasthan :

Jaipur, Banswara, Jalor, Sikar, Pali, Tonk, Churu, Ganganagar, Kota, Nagpur, Jhunjhunu and Bhilwara were effected by heavy rains/floods in the second fortnight of July. 2,814 houses were reported damaged, 18 lives were lost and road communications were disrupted at a number of places in these districts. Total loss has been placed by the State

Government tentatively at Rs. one crore.

Other States :

In the State of Bihar, the Ganga and its tributaries have been in low to medium floods but have not caused any serious damage so far. Cropped area of 12,600 hectares and 78 houses have been reported damaged. In Madhya Pradesh, river Narmada was in high floods towards the end of the June disrupting road communications for a short period. Due to heavy local rains, eight villages in Balaghat District were affected. Communications in Bombay city were disrupted as a result of heavy rainfall during the last week of July. Eleven persons lost their lives due to house collapse and seven were injured. In Uttar Pradesh, parts of Muzzafarnagar, Hardoi, Gorakhpur and Shahjahanpur districts were affected by floods. The population affected was 22,000, 38 houses were damaged and three human lives were lost.

STATEMENT OF FLOOD DAMAGES DURING 1977 (AS ON 2-8-1977)

Name of State	Area affected in lakh ha.	Population affected in lakhs	Damage to Crops		Damage to houses		Cattle lost Nos.	Human lives lost Nos.	Damage to public utilities in Rs. lakhs	Total damage to crops, houses & public utilities (Col. 5+7+10 in Rs. lakhs)	Remarks
			Area in lakh ha.	Value in Rs. lakhs	Nos.	Value in Rs. lakhs					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1. Assam	NA	NA	2.15	1928.0	NA	NA	141	34	NA	1928.00	
2. Bihar	0.13	0.54	0.13	NA	78	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
3. Gujarat	2.52	9.68	2.52	NA	6916	NA	136	46	180.00	180.00	
4. Haryana	5.26	10.00	0.60	NA	3616	NA	21	4	NA	NA	
5. Karnataka	NA	NA	NA	NA	318	NA	NA	NA	8.92	8.92	
6. Maharashtra	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.07	NA	11	NA	0.07	
7. Punjab	0.07	NA	0.06	22.26	6.3	4.86	63	9	NA	27.12	
8. Rajasthan	NA	NA	NA	NA	2.14	NA	NA	18	*100.00	*100.00	*Break-up not available
9. Uttar Pradesh	0.05	0.24	0.34	NA	38	NA	NA	3	NA	NA	
10. West Bengal	9.50	40.70	2.23	1369.55	5400	NA	77	12	17.13	1386.68	NA=Not Available.
TOTAL	17.53	61.14	7.73	3319.81	69163	4.93	458	137**	306.05	3630.79	

**In addition, 11 lives have been lost in Delhi.

श्री मनो राम बागड़ी (मधुरा) :
मन्त्री महोदय ने स्टेटमेंट दिया है—

MR. SPEAKER : We will give you a copy.

श्री मनो राम बागड़ी : वह तो ठीक है । लेकिन देश में स्थिति भयंकर है । इस पर आप हमें एक सवाल करने की इजाजत तो दें । यह सवाल पहली भी आया था । तब कहा गया था कि बाढ़ आने से पहले इस पर बहस की जाए । अब जब लोग मरने लगे हैं तब भी आप कहते हैं कि इस पर सवाल करने की इजाजत नहीं दी जा सकती है ।

MR. SPEAKER : On statement, you cannot put questions.

12.55 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) PROPOSAL TO SET UP CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Under rule 377 and with your kind permission, I have to bring an important matter to the notice of this august House and also of the Government. Sir, it is well known that the Government proposes to set up a Civil Rights Commission. The idea of a Civil Rights Commission is indeed laudable but it is now being said that the proposed Civil Rights Commission will also perform the functions of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as those of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities and that there will not be any separate Minorities Commission.

I am happy that the Hon. Prime Minister is here in the House. It will be recalled that during the Lok Sabha elections and even thereafter the Hon. Prime Minister repeatedly made statements about a separate Minorities Commission. Consequently, there is a lot of disappointment and anxiety among the minorities today, especially because these days incidents of atrocities on minorities are also on the increase. The other minorities like the linguistic minorities and religious minorities have also various complaints and grievances. The Civil Rights Commission as has been now envisaged by the Government, will be too unwieldy, and it is also evident and quite apparent that such a Civil Rights Commission will not be able to pay specific attention to the various rights, problems and grievances of the

minorities. I must submit that the specific rights, grievances and problems of the minorities will get over-shadowed in the wide realm of questions involving civil rights, and the minorities will fail to receive their due and prompt attention. Such a Commission will also be a retrograde step, especially in the context of our democracy being emphasized as a secular democracy.

You know very well that in this very House there have been demands for bifurcation of the single Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes into two different Commissions. It has been pointed out in this very House that the nature of the problems of the Scheduled Castes and those of the Scheduled Tribes are widely different in several respects. Yet we find that the present exclusive machinery available to some minorities, however inadequate that machinery may be, is being sought to be scrapped and only one Commission has been thought of. I must emphasize that there is need for a separate Commission for linguistic minorities, a separate Commission for religious minorities, a separate Commission for Scheduled Castes and a separate Commission for Scheduled Tribes. These Commissions must also have the necessary statutory and constitutional authority to see that their recommendations are of a binding nature.

With one more observation I will conclude: that is, that the Hon. Home Minister has announced, in the recent conference of the Chief Ministers...

MR. SPEAKER: That is not relevant to this: you are permitted to speak only on the Civil Rights Commission.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: My only request to the Government is that it should consider the apprehensions, the demands and the aspirations of the minorities and, I would emphasize, let there be a new deal for the minorities.

(ii) DISLOCATION OF RAILWAY TRAFFIC AND OTHER LOSSES DUE TO FLOODS

श्री हुसैन बख्श कश्मीर (उज्जैन) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, महारे देश में हर साल बाढ़ आती है । पिछले 4.5 दिन में भी देश में काफी बाढ़ें आई हैं जिसके कारण काफी रेल-मार्ग रुक गए हैं, उनमें दरारें पड़ गई हैं, काफी जानें गई हैं, पशुधन की हानि हुई है । हर वर्ष बाढ़ के कारण घरों को क्षति होती है, फसलें बरबाद होती हैं, लाखों जानवर मरते हैं, जानें जाती हैं और हर