

15.00 hrs.

**STATEMENT RE: FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY**

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH):** Sir, during the year 1976...

**MR. SPEAKER:** If it is a long statement, you may lay it on the Table.

**SHRI KEDAR NATH SINGH:** Sir, I lay the statement on the flood situation in the country on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

During the year 1976 the South West monsoon had been somewhat indifferent to begin with but of late, it has generally picked up. The cumulative monsoon rainfall upto August 4, was normal or excess in most parts of the country, except Arunachal Pradesh, Gangetic West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, East Uttar Pradesh, hills of West Uttar Pradesh and Kerala where it was deficient. During the last couple of days some parts of the country have been experiencing heavy rainfall specially Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.

According to the reports received from the State Government, floods causing considerable damage have occurred in parts of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Manipur, Maharashtra and Tripura. Floods have occurred in the Jhelum causing flooding in the Kashmir Valley. A few of the rivers in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were also in floods. Gujarat and Maharashtra were hit by severe cyclones resulting in heavy rains and floods in early June.

**Andhra Pradesh:**

During the low flood in Godavari, which occurred in the first week of July the first bay on the left bank of Dowlaiswaram anicut breached over a length of 152 metres affecting the left bank canal. Repair work at

the breached portion has been taken up by the State Government. During the subsequent medium flood of July 21 to 25 the river crossed the danger level in the upper reaches. On July 23, Madhavayapalam outfall sluice at Km. 74/0 of Vasista Godavari embankment near Narsapuram collapsed, which is being attended to.

**Assam:**

Three waves of flood occurred in Brahmaputra basin during the months of June and July, 1976. The first wave lasted for 9 days from June 12 and the second wave extended into the third one covering the period June 28 to July 21. The fourth wave of flood in Brahmaputra commenced from 4th of August, 1976 and was continuing when the last reports came in. The northern tributaries of Brahmaputra, the Puthimari, the Pagladiya, the Manas and the Beki and the Southern tributaries Burhidhing, the Kopilli and the Dhansiri along with the main river were in moderate floods during these different spells.

During the first wave, there was a breach on the Burhidhing retired embankment at Telpani in Dibrugarh district and the left bank of Bhairatolajan in Kamrup district. There were also damages to the Check dam on the spill channel on Dhansiri south in Sibsagar district, and erosion near Tezpur railway station. During the second wave of floods erosion occurred at a few places including Kamlabari Mouza of Majuli Island, two spans of the Puthimari bridge at Chimalibidia road were washed away and the Brahmaputra river spilled over its bank at a few places. During the third wave of floods the river Bhogodoi surpassed its previous highest recorded level of 90.92 metres at Jorhat. Breaches took place at two places on its left bank and one place in the right bank. There were breaches between Diara and Kalapani in the embankment on Jinjirara river, a tributary of Brahmaputra in Dhubri

[Shri Kedar Nath Singh]

sub-division and damages to the railway guide bund in Dhemaji sub-division.

The Barak valley in Assam experienced severe flood damage under the three waves of flood during the periods from June 11 to 18, June 30 to July 14 and July 17 to 21. The river Barak attained the maximum level of 21.05 metres on June 15, against the danger level of 19.83 metres at Silchar (Annapurnaghat), the maximum level ever recorded at this site being 21.94 metres in June 1969. At Lakhimpur, the level recorded on 15th June was about a metre above the previous highest recorded level in June, 1966. The floods in Barak and its tributaries in early June caused serious flood situation almost throughout the entire valley. There were seven breaches in the embankment system of the Barak basin during the first wave of floods—three in the Barak embankment and three in the Longai embankments, and one in Shingla. Almost half of Silchar, headquarters of Cachar district was under water. The district was completely cut-off from the rest of the country due to disruption of road, rail and air communications.

The State Government undertook rescue and relief operations in the affected areas with assistance from the Army. The State Government sanctioned Rs. 36.35 lakhs for gratuitous relief for cash, food and clothing, Rs. 9 lakhs for medical relief, Rs. 5.18 lakhs for supply of seeds free of cost and Rs. 0.40 lakhs for cattle fodder. Building materials worth Rs. 13.75 lakhs were also made available free of cost for repairs of the damaged houses.

*Gujarat:*

Consequent to the severe cyclonic storm that hit Gujarat on June 3 and 4 there was heavy rainfall in some parts of the State. The districts

affected were Ahmedabad, Kheda, Bhavnagar, Broach, Baroda, Gandhinagar, Surat, Junagadh, Rajkot, Amreli, Buzsar, and Panchmahals. Road and tele-communications were disrupted and power supply to Broach broke down. Baroda city experienced a rainfall of 12.3 centimetres on July 11 resulting in high inflows into Ajwa lake requiring heavy release of water. The water thus released, affected Baroda city and 15 villages on the banks of river Vishwamitri in Baroda district.

Due to heavy rainfall of 90 centimetres during July 29 to 31 in Buzsar district and its vicinity, a number of rivers including Damodar-Ganga were in high floods. Low lying areas of Buzsar town were flooded and the deck of the railway bridge on Damodar-Ganga river near Vapi was washed away. Road and railway communications between Bombay and Ahmedabad were disrupted. In Surat district a number of rivers were in high floods affecting four tehsils and also the highway in the area. Rescue and relief operations were undertaken by the State authorities.

*Jammu and Kashmir.*

Widespread rainfall occurred in Kashmir Valley between July 26 to August 2, resulting in river Jhelum surpassing its previous highest recorded level at Sangam on August 1. Once again continuous rainfall was experienced in the valley from August 5 onwards. Flood embankments have breached at a number of places inundating extensive areas in Anantnag and Srinagar districts, including the towns of Anantnag and Bijbiara. Extensive damage has been reported to roads, culverts and lift irrigation schemes. Portion of the National Highway from Jammu to Srinagar and other roads connecting major towns were under water, affecting road communications. On August 8 and 9, the weather was clear at Srinagar and also the level of river

Jhelum was falling. However, the Wallar lake was rising but was about 0.3 meters above the danger level on August 9. Relief is being provided and rations distributed to the affected persons.

#### Maharashtra:

Due to the cyclone and resultant heavy rains during the first week of June districts of Thane, Kolaba, Pune, Ahmednagar, Sangli, Satara, Bombay suburban, Nasik, Sholapur and Dhule were affected. In Thane a bridge at Pandharta was washed away. There have been damages to the Maswan bund and Bhandwadi tank and an earthen dam at Naigaon-Degaon. Due to floods in Godavari and its tributaries low lying areas were flooded in Sangamner, Akola and Nagar towns and road communications disrupted. The State Government undertook rescue and relief operations in the affected areas and provided cash relief.

#### Tripura and Manipur:

Due to unprecedented rainfall during June 7 to 15 in Tripura there were extensive damages in a number of subdivisions, most affected being Kamrup, Kailashahar, Belonia and Khowai. Large areas of land were inundated affecting standing crops, roads and bridges. During the second and third spell of floods during the first and second week of July there was further devastation in the already affected areas. The State Government undertook relief measures by opening 75 camps and an amount of Rs. 1.8 lakhs were sanctioned towards relief works.

In Manipur, the rivers Imphal, Nambul, Thoubal and Iril were in floods during the second week of June. Two breaches occurred in each of the embankments of Imphal and Nambul and one breach in Thoubal

embankment. The State Governments undertook immediate relief and rescue operations.

Member (Floods), Central Water Commission, Government of India, accompanied by the concerned State Government officers inspected affected areas to advise on the immediate engineering measures to be taken up.

#### Other States:

There were medium floods in Teesta, Jaldhaka and other North Bengal rivers resulting in damages in Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Cooch Behar districts. The State Government undertook rescue and relief operations.

The Bagmati, Kamla Balan, the Burhi-Gandak, the Adhwara Group of rivers and Mahananda were in floods in North Bihar during the last week of June and first half of July.

The Ganga and its tributaries, the Sarda, the Rapti, the Gomti and Ghaghra in Uttar Pradesh were in low to moderate floods.

In Kerala, there were land slides and rock bursts in Trichur, Idukki and Kozhikode districts resulting in 20 deaths.

In Madhya Pradesh, the river Indravati, a tributary of the Godavari was in floods on July 21 for a short duration, dislocating road communications between Jagdalpur and Raipur.

In Punjab, the rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej were in floods during the first week of August which, however, were effectively contained by the flood protection works. In the earlier floods of July 25 in Sutlej a breach occurred in the embankment at Makawal and in a bund on Budkinadi.

The river Yamuna was in floods and crossed the danger level at the railway bridge at Delhi on August 1, affecting a few marginal villages. It is again in flood from August 7.

(Shri Kedar Nath Singh.)

## Damage due to floods:

Clear picture of the magnitude of the losses caused by the floods would be available after detailed assessment is made by the State Governments. This would be possible only after the floods recede. However, preliminary

assessments made by the States so far indicate that during the first half of the monsoon this year damage due to floods has not been very heavy. The enclosed statement gives the preliminary assessment State-wise as reported by the State Governments.

## STATEMENT OF FLOOD DAMAGES DURING 1976 (As upto 9-8-1976)

Name of State	Area affected in lakh hectares	Population affected in lakhs	Damage to crops		Damage to houses		Cattle lost nos.	Human lives lost nos.	Damage to public utilities in Ra. lakhs	Total damage to crops, houses and public utilities (col. 5+7+10) in lakhs
			Area in lakh ha.	Value in Ra. lakhs	Nos.	Value in Ra. lakhs				
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh	1.30	1.47	0.21	11.17	2773	27.53	2171	4	223.77	262.53
Assam	6.89	12.16	0.61	1031.72	53837	201.10	1037	63	0.54	1284.36
Gujarat	0.43	24.89	0.43	126.00	61301	393.70	30944	96	1063.00	1582.70
Jammu & Kashmir	N.R.		0.25	N.R.	410	N.R.	N.R.	23	N.R.	N.R.
Kerala	N.R.		N.R.		N.R.		N.R.		20	N.R.
Maharashtra	0.20	0.77	0.03	6.71	11814	72.83	7968	35	74.71	154.25
Manipur	0.18	0.20	0.18	530.00	4000	72.00	2	1	7.00	609.00
Punjab	N.R.		N.R.		N.R.		30	9	N.R.	N.R.
Tirupura	0.41	2.00	0.19	187.00	5711	12.41	595	6	166.03	355.84
West Bengal	0.07	0.01	N.R.	0.62	460	1.24	N.R.	N.R.	3.09	4.95
TOTAL	9.49	41.50	1.98	1944.22	1402.96	781.27	43599	254	1528.14	4358.69

N.R.—Not reported