

(Dr. K. L. Shrimali)

of Section 25 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, a copy of the University Grants Commission (Disqualification, Retirement and Conditions of Service of Members) Rules, 1956, published in the Notification No. S.R.O. 2607, dated the 10th November, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. S-540/56].

AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC DEBT (COMPENSATION BONDS) RULES

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (3) of Section 28 of the Public Debt Act, 1944, a copy of the Notification No. S.R.O. 1196, dated the 26th May, 1956, making certain amendments to the Public Debt (Compensation Bonds) Rules 1954. [Placed in Library. See No. S-541/56].

REPORT OF REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-section (2) of Section 18 of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act, 1948, a copy of the Report of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration for the half year ended the 30th June, 1956. [See Appendix IV, annexure No. 56].

FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the House a statement [Placed in the Library. See No. S-558/56.] reviewing the flood situation in the country subsequent to my earlier statement on the 27th July. With your permission, I would like to add a few words on the overall position of the programme as implemented and the directions in which we propose to take further action.

As the House is already aware, the question of an integrated national flood

control programme was taken up in September 1954. As indicated in the comprehensive statement which I laid on the Table of the House on 3rd September 1954, the programme was divided into three phases, immediate, short-term and long-term. Special organisations were set up at the Centre and in the States affected by floods for formulating schemes and implementing them quickly. The 'immediate phase' extending over a period of two years was to be devoted to intensive investigation and collection of technical data, preparation of designs and estimates for short-term measures and execution of emergent measures like revetments, spurs and some embankments. During this period, investigations have been carried out over extensive areas and valuable data have been collected. Aerial photography has been completed over 43,000 sq. miles; photomosaics have been taken for about 35,000 sq. miles; secondary and tertiary levelling has been done in an area totalling 19,000 square miles. A number of discharge observation, gauge and silt observation sites, and rain-gauge and river-gauge stations have also been set up.

As a result of the execution of emergent schemes during this period, appreciable benefits have already accrued to the regions in which those schemes were undertaken. An area of over 26 lakh acres has been saved from inundation, besides a number of towns in Assam, U.P., Bihar and West Bengal.

The 'immediate phase' is over and the stage has now been reached when we should take stock of the position. We have had very heavy floods successively in 1954, 1955 and 1956. These floods, each of which had its own special features, presented problems, a satisfactory solution which is essential for the formulation of an integrated programme. In 1954, major rivers like the Brahmaputra, the Kosi and Burhi Gandak, were mainly responsible for the havoc caused. The 1955 floods, however, showed that even