

Sir, this particular district of Cachar is known to be an earthquake prone area. Adequate assistance has already been provided. We are waiting for a detailed report from the State Government. As soon as the report is received and if any more steps are required to be taken we will do the needfull.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Sir, I congratulate the Minister for giving a detailed information but generally when there is a big reservoir in our country due to silting the earthquake comes within a radius of 50 km in 30-40 years. The Minister has admitted that Cachar district is in earthquake prone zone. Will the Minister enlighten the House after how many years this particular area is a victim of earthquake and what preventive measures involving the professional expertise like the NSRA, Hyderabad have been taken to eradicate the zones of formation which are prone to earthquake in our country.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, I am sorry I cannot compete with the Hon. Member in technical knowledge.

But, I have this information with me.

This area has been affected earlier by an earthquake of great intensity on the 10th January, 1869 (Magnitude 7.5) when it caused extensive damage in Cachar district.

As the region lies close to the Dawki and Haflong faults, occurrence of recent earthquake was not unexpected.

In fact, the whole of north-east India lies in seismically active region where two of the greatest earthquakes in the world— (i) June 1897 (Magnitude 8.7) in Shillong Plateau and (ii) in August, 1950 (Magnitude 8.5) in north-east Assam have occurred. The occurrence of these earthquakes is attributed to the collision of Indian and Eurasian plateaus.

Regarding availability of latest technology, I have already mentioned that we propose to have five more centres in the north-eastern zone so that we can be in a position to know at least something fundamental about the observations regarding such earthquakes.

Procurement of Foodgrains by FCI

***22. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of foodgrains procured by Government through Food Corporation of India and other agencies during the 1984 rabi and kharif crops;

(b) the storage facility available for these foodgrains;

(c) whether foodgrains have also been stored in the open;

(d) whether Government have a perspective plan for maintaining high level of foodgrains stocks; and

(e) if so, whether there is a corresponding plan for storing this grain safely ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) A total quantity of 16.24 million tonnes of foodgrains has been procured during 1984-85 rabi and kharif marketing season upto 16-1-1985.

(b) The covered storage capacity available with the Food Corporation of India, owned and hired taken together, was 18.98 million tonnes as on 30-11-1984.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to part (c) is in the affirmative. So, I would like to know what is the total quantity of loss suffered from being stored in the open. At the same time I would like to know this from the hon. Minister. The reply of the hon. Minister to part (d) is also in the affirmative. My question is this. Is there any plan to construct storage facilities at sub-divisional and block levels ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : There is a normal programme as well as a crash programme for building additional capacity and the policy is to try to set up capacities right up to the district levels, as was earlier ordered by the Late Prime Minister under her 12 point programme

for relief against drought and other natural calamities and we are following that.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Is there any proposal to stock foodgrains in modern silos ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : We are trying to find ways and means of constructing very cheap and efficient storage system including modern silos.

SHRI D.B. PATIL : It has been stated that foodgrains have been stored in the open. It has also been asked by the Hon. Member as to what is the total loss suffered due to foodgrains having been stored in the open. Now my question is this. What was the total loss suffered for the last 3 years ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : For that I need a separate notice. But I may point out that losses do occur on account of various reasons. It is partly due to storage in the open apart from transit losses etc.

SHRI ERASU AYYAPU REDDY : What is the quantity that is stored in the open ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I think it is about 2 million tonnes.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Has any effort been made to take advantage of the private warehouses which people have built for their own use in order to minimise these losses by keeping them in the open ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The total storage capacity now being utilised by the F.C.I. consists of about 50 per cent which is owned by the F.C.I. The other half belongs to Central Warehousing Corporation well as State Warehousing Corporations and also includes hired capacities from various private owners of godowns.

Serious Lapses by DDA Housing Divisions

*23. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been

drawn to a report published in *Times of India*, New Delhi edition of 7 January, 1985 regarding 'Serious Lapses' by Delhi Development Authority Housing Divisions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

The Quality Control Cell of DDA carried out technical audit of three of their housing divisions on 7-1-85 and listed the following irregularities in different divisions, in addition to a few cases of over-payment :—

- (i) Lack of integrated planning and execution of development work.
- (ii) Lack of Administrative Approval and Expenditure Sanction.
- (iii) Absence of Technical sanction.
- (iv) Lack of detailed plans of existing work.
- (v) Large excess in quantities during execution.
- (vi) Refund of Earnest Money of tenderers other than the lowest on the same day.
- (vii) Acceptance of tenders by Asstt. Engineers beyond their powers of acceptance.
- (viii) Non-maintenance of important Accounts records.
- (ix) Non-recovery of taxes in unauthorised colonies.
- (x) Over measurement of a drain by 132 metres.
- (xi) Large over measurement for two pump houses in Nand Nagri.