

(g) Large number of villages marooned

(h) Extensive damage to public properties Roads, Bridges-private houses and standing crops besides severe damage to Minor Irrigation projects.

(i) Human and Animal casualties reported.

(j) Loss as per preliminary report is estimated over several crores.

(k) Extensive damage caused in Puri and Cuttack districts.

(b) A Central Reconnaissance team visited the State on 13-16 November, 1990 to have first hand information on the situation caused by this calamity. The team was not required to assess the extent of damage caused by the Calamity. The team identified a number of points with regard to immediate relief and rehabilitation of the affected people in the area. The concerned Departments of Central Government have taken necessary action on these points. The details of the assistance provided by Central Government to Government of Orissa for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people are given in the statement

Statement

Assistance provided by Government of India to the State Government of Orissa in the wake of heavy rains and floods in November, 1990

—All the four quarterly instalments of Centre's share towards State Calamity Relief Fund for 1990-91 amounting to Rs. 35.25 crore has been released.

—An amount of Rs 2 50 lakh has been released for pest control. In addition, Rs 560.04 lakh has been sanctioned to the State Government under 'Integrated Rice Development Programme'.

—General Insurance Corporation has been instructed to settle the insurance claims on priority basis

—Necessary quantity of seeds as available with National Seeds Corporation (NSC)/State Farming Corporation of India (SFCI) have been supplied to the State

—Steel Authority of India and Tata Iron and Steel Company have since been instructed to meet the requirement of materials of the Orissa State Electricity Board immediately.

—National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued necessary instructions to the Banks in Orisa for rescheduling old loans and providing necessary fresh loan assistance to the affected people.

—Chief, Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) located at Bhubaneswar is maintaining constant contact with the State Government for finalisation of Housing Project at an early date.

—Director General, Health Services is maintaining constant contacts with the health authorities of the State Government for malaria eradication programme and providing medicines, vaccines and disinfectants.

—A task force from the Department of Telecommunication has already visited the affected areas between 2nd and 5th December, 1990. 90% of the restoration work has been completed.

Closure of Coal Engine Loco Shed at Khurda, S.E. Railway

148 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that abrupt closure of the coal engine Loco Shed in Khurda of South Eastern Railway is agitating the workers and public there; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for closure of the old workshop and whether Government are contemplating to utilize the existing building and machineries?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Railways on account of operational necessities, and for increasing efficiency and bringing about economy, have decided to replace steam locomotives by the year 2000. A number of steam staff has been retained at the same place of work as they were engaged in other activities which would continue to remain at the station. The maintenance staff rendered surplus are being redeployed at the same or nearby locations after re-training. Railway as a policy do not retrench any staff. The steps have been taken in consultation with the recognised unions. Any useful material, machinery and plant etc. which is no longer required at their present location would be shifted to alternative areas in the national interest.

Conversion of Manmad-Aurangabad Railway line from M.G. to B.G.

149 DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position with regard to the conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge railway line in Manmad-Aurangabad sector;

(b) by when the project was originally scheduled to be completed and by when it is expected to be completed; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in the completion of the project and what steps are contemplated by Government to accelerate the process of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Physical progress of 69 per cent has been achieved as on 15-11-1990.

(b) and (c) The Manmad-Aurangabad project was originally scheduled for completion by 31-12-1991. Efforts are being made to advance the date of completion by 6 months.

Short supplies of consumer goods at Fair Price Shops

150. SHRI ANANT DAVE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Wheat, Rice, Sugar and Palmolein Cooking Oils are in short supply and are mostly not available at Fair Price Shops in the various parts of the country, and

(b) what steps Government are taking to make these items available freely at the Fair Price Shops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SARWAR HUSSAIN) (a) and (b) No reports of such shortages of rice, wheat and sugar have been received from State Govts./UT Administrations. There are adequate stocks of rice, wheat and sugar in the Central Pool. There is, however, shortage of palmolein, currently, due to lack of import. Government is, however, considering measures to remedy the situation. PDS allocations, nevertheless, are supplemental in nature, and are not intended to meet the entire requirement of States/UTs.

Conversion of Ernakulam-Kottayam-Trivandrum railway line

151. SHRI M. M. JACOB: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert Ernakulam-Kottayam-Trivandrum railway line as a double line; and

(b) if so by when the project is likely to be completed; if not, the reasons therefor?