

Appointment of a Commission on charges of corruption against Ministers of West Bengal

*113. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
DR. Z. A. AHMAD:
SHRI L. MAHAPATRO:
SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister of West Bengal met the Prime Minister in June, 1974 in regard to the appointment a Commission under the Commission of Inquiry Act, to go into the charges of corruption against some Ministers in that State and had discussion with her on the subject;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the announcement about the Commission was accompanied by a statement by the Chief Minister suggesting certain amendments to the Commission of Inquiry Act; and

(c) whether the Central Government is aware that the Chief Minister who had earlier proposed the appointment of the Commission, later on decided not to submit any memorandum to the Commission?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) The Chief Minister of West Bengal met the Prime Minister in June, 1974 and discussed various matters. It is not customary to disclose the nature of such discussions between the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers.

(b) A Commissions of Inquiry (West Bengal Amendment) Ordinance, 1974 has been issued by the Government of West Bengal in order to vest the Commission of Inquiry constituted by that Government with larger powers than admissible under the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

(c) No.

Brahmaputra floods

*114. SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN:

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI:
SHRI I. D. SINGH:
SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss suffered in respect of crops, cattle, human lives, Government and individual property on account of floods in the Brahmaputra and its tributaries in Assam during the month of June last;

(b) what relief was provided to the affected people; and

(c) what measures have been taken by the Central Government for controlling the Brahmaputra and its tributaries?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The State Government of Assam have made a rough preliminary assessment of the damage caused by floods and erosion during June and early in July in the rivers of Assam, according to which the damage is as following:—

	Rs.
Damage to crops	191 lakhs
Damage to houses	10.11 lakhs
Damage to public utilities	0.72 lakhs
Cattle lost	165
Human lives lost	8

Separate figures of damage caused by floods in the Brahmaputra and its tributaries and other rivers of Assam have not been reported by the State Government. A detailed assessment of damage caused by floods is possible only after the floods recede completely.