

[21 December, 2004]

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- (vi) The State of Bihar has been allocated an amount of Rs. 81.40 crore in the CRF for the year 2004-05, comprising of Rs. 61.05 crore as Central share and Rs. 20.35 crore as State share. The entire Central share of CRF for the current year has been released.

During the year 2004-05 an amount of Rs. 19.04 crore has been released to take up critical anti erosion works and drainage scheme.

As a long-term measure to control floods, agreement has already been reached between India and Nepal to take up field investigations and preparation of joint DPR of Sapta Kosi and Sun Kosi Projects by a Joint Project Office, which has been opened in Nepal on 17th August 2004. The above Joint Project Office has also been entrusted to undertake the feasibility study of the Kamla Multipurpose Project and preliminary study of Bagmati Multipurpose Project.

Further, to look into the problem of recurring floods and erosion in Assam and other neighbouring States as well as Bihar, West Bengal and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, the Ministry of Water Resources has set up a 21 Member Task Force headed by Chairman, Central Water Commission. The Task Force has been asked to give its report by 31st December 2004.

#### **Calamities Due to Flood in Assam**

2044. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recent devastating floods in Assam caused a heavy loss of life and property and damage to embankments of rivers, roads and bridges;

(b) how much monitoring help extended by the Central Government to the State Government of Assam to repair the damage caused by flash floods; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to save the State from flash floods by controlling flood water and how much money has been released by the Central Government till now for rehabilitation work in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The flood management comes under the purview of the State Government. However, the following measures have been taken by Central Government:—

- (1) Rs. 92.52 crore released as Central share under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF).
- (2) Taking into account the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group and norms of assistance, the High Level Committee (HLC) approved Rs. 345.37 crore for flood relief subject to adjustment of fund available under CRF. Accordingly Rs. 171.87 crore was released.
- (3) The HLC has also approved the following:—
  - (i) Additional Assistance of 1 lakh Metric tonne rice (costing Rs. 120.00 crore).
  - (ii) Rs. 13.45 crore from special component of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).
  - (iii) The cost of transportation of fodder, animal feed and medicine by the Railways and the cost of deployment of IAF helicopters to be released from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) to the State on actual basis.
- (4) The HLC recommended assistance on aspects which were not admissible under CRF/NCCF to the State through the respective Ministries/Departments:—
  - (i) Rs. 20.00 crore for National Highways.
  - (ii) Rs. 11.23 crore for Kaziranga National Park.
  - (iii) Rs. 3.02 crore for Secondary Education.
- (5) On receipt of supplementary memorandum from State Govt. and based on the report of Central Team and recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Group, the following further amount has been approved:—
  - (i) Rs. 39.68 crore from NCCF
  - (ii) Rs. 6.02 crore from ARWSP
- (6) Rs. 10.91 crore spent by Brahmaputra Board for flood control drainage

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development and anti erosion schemes upto November, 2004.

- (7) In principle approval has been accorded by the Planning Commission for the scheme estimated to cost Rs. 41.28 crore for protection of Majuli Island during the 10th Plan.
- (8) A scheme approved to take up critical flood control and anti erosion schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak valley for Assam and other North-Eastern States for Rs. 150.00 crore (share of Assam Rs. 81.00 crore) during 10th Plan.
- (9) A High Level Task Force constituted to look into the recurring flood and erosion problems including representatives from Assam, which has been asked to submit its report by 31st December, 2004.
- (10) A Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on Flood Management has been constituted between India and Bhutan which has representative from State Government of Assam. The JGE held its first meeting in Bhutan in November, 2004.

**Construction of Channels in Indira Gandhi Canal Command Area**

†2045. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter from the State Government of Rajasthan to remove the provision of 10 per cent contribution to be borne by the farmers for the construction of channels in Indira Gandhi Canal's Command area;

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) if no action taken, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Under the Command Area Development and Water Management Programme, it is mandatory to recover 10% cost of construction of field channels from the beneficiary farmers. However, in view of difficulties expressed by the Government of Rajasthan, they have

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.