

RAJYA SABHA

Friday, 16 September 1955

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

FLOOD SITUATION IN ORISSA

ME. CHAIRMAN: The Home Minister will make statement on the flood situation in Orissa.

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT): Sir, according to the latest information available with us, the position in regard to the floods in Orissa is as follows:

Due to heavy rains on and after the 29th August 1955, the rivers Mahanadi, Brahmani and their tributaries were flooded to an unprecedented level with several serious breaches in embankments.

The entire coastal area from Puri to Balasore has been badly affected. Large areas of cultivated lands in protected areas have been inundated. In all, an area of 3,500 sq. miles is reported to have been affected by the floods involving about six lakhs of people. The position in the various districts is as follows:—

Cuttack District.—Devastation and distress is widespread and serious. Dalaighai a major and vital embankment of long standing on Kathjuri river protecting a low and thickly populated area has been breached. This alone has affected a population of nearly two lakhs in an area of 600 sq. miles. It is apprehended that the entire protected area will be under water. In Jajpur Sub-Division of this district, devastation is equally great. Nearly 400 sq. miles in Dharamsala and Barchana areas have been submerged by flood waters and about 40,000 people or more have been affected in this area. Similarly, in Kendrapara Sub-Division, 140 villages are under water affecting a population of

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nearly 50,000. Flood water has entered Kendrapara town and communication in this Sub-Division has been cut off on account of large breaches.

Puri and Balasore Districts.—Though large areas are inundated, devastation is not so great as in the Cuttack District.

Dhenkanal District.—Areas in the former Indian States of Narsingpur, Tigiria, Athgarh and Athmallik have been affected though not seriously. Large number of people are stated to have been marooned.

The loss of life cannot be estimated as the areas are still inaccessible. According to the latest unconfirmed reports, the number of persons dead is 37 and missing 5. Loss of cattle is considerable but the exact number is not yet known.

As to loss of property, damage to crops and property, particularly houses, is very great and may amount to crores. It is particularly extensive in the areas affected by the Dalaighai breach and cannot be estimated till floods subside.

About relief measures, prompt action was taken by the State Government to deal with the emergency which developed so suddenly. The Chief Minister, Orissa, made an aerial survey of the flood affected areas. Other Ministers of the State also directed relief and rescue operations. The Union Minister for Food and Agriculture made an aerial survey of the flood affected areas on the 11th September 1955.

The Government of India have rendered all possible help asked for by the State Government in rushing supplies of food and medicines, arranging air-dropping of food and clothing to the marooned population and despatching boats and army personnel for rescue operations.

The latest position with regard to the aid given by the armed forces in

[Shri Govind Ballabh Pant.] connection with flood relief work is as follows: —

91 boats, 114 outboard motors, 258 army personnel, 100 tents, 3 tons of service biscuits, 36 medical packages and 18 wireless sets have been provided by the army. 3 Dakotas for dropping of supplies, two Fair-child Packets for transport of equipment and 2 Helicopters for rescue of marooned people have been made available by the Indian Air Force.

The Orissa Government have also received adequate supplies of milk powder, vitamins, penicillin and other medicines in addition to 20 bales of blankets from the Indian Red Cross Society.

The State Government also obtained five motor boats from West Bengal which are operating in Dalaighai area. Gratuitous relief is being distributed and sent to inaccessible areas by air.

As to food supplies, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture have arranged for the supply of food grains as below: —

40,000 tons of rice and 10,000 tons of paddy are under despatch from West Bengal Government's stocks. Out of this, about 25,000 tons have already reached Orissa.

8,000 tons of boiled Burma rice have been reserved in Calcutta for the flood affected areas of Orissa. To meet their further requirements of rice and paddy, the Orissa Government have been advised about the stocks available in West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Madras. Out of these stocks, they have been further allotted 20,000 tons of Burma rice on the 13th September.

2,000 tons of wheat have been allotted from Calcutta out of which 1,000 tons have already been sent by special trains. The balance will be sent in small lots due to difficulties of storage accommodation in Cuttack.

6,000 maunds of gram have been allotted for immediate despatch from Punjab and are being moved under top priority. Further quantities upto 2,000 tons which is Orissa Government's requirement, are being purchased in the open market to be sent to them.

Arrangements have been made to run special trains with rice and paddy from Calcutta to Orissa. The first special train left on 8th September and a programme of running 5B special train a day for the next two to three weeks has been arranged with the Railways.

As to financial assistance from the Centre, the Minister for Food and Agriculture has, as the President of the Indian People's Famine Relief Trust, sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10,000 as grant to the Orissa State for flood relief. The State Government will be eligible to receive from the Central Government the grant of half the total expenditure on gratuitous relief up to Rs. 2 crores and three-fourths of the expenditure in excess thereof.

SHRI S. MAHANTY (Orissa): Sir, may I seek here a clarification on two or three points? In the first place, may I know what will be the effect of the floods on the food situation in Orissa in view of the fact that this flood has visited after two successive droughts in Orissa? Secondly, I would like to know if the Government are aware of the fact that the relief operations in Orissa are mostly disorganised in view of the fact that the Government does not take the help of the voluntary bodies and thirdly, I would like to know if the Government of India have any idea of the total volume of relief measures that either the State Government or the Central Government has to render taking into account the financial position of the State Government. Lastly, is it a fact that even though the Orissa Government was warned 36 hours before the breach took place in Dalaighai, it took absolutely no measures for protection? Will the Government please

investigate into this and let us know the result in view of the fact that the Central Government is now being asked to undertake relief operations?

SHRI GOVIND BALLABH PANT: Sir, essentially this is a State subject. We, however, are naturally interested in affording relief and in saving people from the devastation and loss that has resulted from these floods. Obviously, the standing crops have been affected and Orissa will probably be deficit in the matter of food grains so far as the existing standing crops are concerned which have been, as I just said, badly damaged. With regard to other matters we, as I have already said, are anxious to render whatever help we can. We appreciate the difficulties of the Orissa Government and also the promptness with which they have taken all possible measures to meet the distress. Whatever more can be done will be done. I hope this would satisfy the hon. Member.

**RESOLUTION *RE* RESTRICTION
ON PRODUCTION OF CLOTH BY
MILLS.—*continued***

MR. CHAIRMAN: The other day Resolution was moved by Mr. Kishen Chand. The Resolution moved is:

"This House, having taken into consideration the recommendations of the Textile Enquiry Committee, is of opinion that production of cloth by mills should be limited to 5,000 million yards per year and that after the year 1955-56 all additional production should be by the hand-loom sector."

This Resolution is before the House.

There is another Resolution which is also tabled for discussion today and I hope you will be able to deal with both these Resolutions at least before the day is over.

♦Continued from 2nd September 1955.

श्री दशरथनन्दन (मुम्बई) : सभापति महोदय, सदन के सामने जो प्रस्ताव है उसका समर्थन करने के लिए मैं खड़ा हुआ हूँ। यह बहुत सीधासादा प्रस्ताव है। टेक्सटाइल इन्व्वायरी कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में जो सिफारिश की है उसको हम यहाँ मंजूर कर रहे हैं और सरकार से प्रार्थना करते हैं कि सरकार भी इस सिफारिश को मंजूर कर ले। ५,००० मिलियन गज कपड़ा की पैदायश के बाद जो हमारी जरूरतें रहेंगी वे हैंडलूम से, यानी करघे से, पूरी की जायें। अंदाज यह लगाया जाता है कि १९६० में हमें ८,२०० मिलियन गज कपड़ा की जरूरत होगी। आज की आदमी १५ गज कपड़ा मिलता है और फॉरशिश यह की जा रही है कि १९६०-६१ में, यानी द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना के आखिर में, हर एक आदमी को १८ गज कपड़ा मिलने लग जाय। इस हिसाब से देखा जाय तो हमें हमारा खुद उपयोग के लिए ७,२०० मिलियन गज कपड़ा की आवश्यकता होगी और एक्सपोर्ट के लिये १,००० मिलियन गज। हमारा देश की पॉपुलेशन करीब ३६ करोड़ है और आज के हिसाब से ४५ लाख हर साल आबादी बढ़ती है। इस तरह १९६० तक हम ४० करोड़ तक बढ़ जायेंगे और हर एक आदमी को १८ गज के हिसाब से ७,२०० मिलियन गज कपड़ा लगेगा।

इस प्रस्ताव में यह कहा गया है कि पांच हजार मिलियन गज कपड़ा मिलों से पैदा किया जाय। अब रहा ३,२०० मिलियन गज कपड़ा, वह हैंडलूम से पैदा किया जाय। आज हैंडलूम से करीब १,४०० मिलियन गज कपड़ा पैदा होता है और १,८०० मिलियन गज अधिक पैदा करने की इसमें गुंजायश सूचित की गई है। टेक्सटाइल इन्व्वायरी कमेटी का हिसाब इस प्रकार है कि पांच हजार मिलियन गज मिलों से पैदा हो और १,४०० मिलियन गज संमी पावर लूम से पैदा हो, २०० मिलियन गज पावर लूम से पैदा हो और १,६०० मिलियन गज हैंडलूम से पैदा हो। यह १,६०० मिलियन गज कपड़ा ६ लाख हैंडलूमों से पैदा हो सकता है। एंसा टेक्सटाइल इन्व्वायरी कमेटी का कहना है। उनके हिसाब से आज वकिंग लूम की जो