

[25 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

Floods in Districts of Bihar

†2285. SHRI VIDYA SAGAR NISHAD Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that flood situation in Bihar is very serious and Khagaria, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura, Samastipur, Madhubani, Sitamarhi and many other districts are adversely affected,

(b) whether Government are also aware of the fact that many Blocks of these districts and districts Headquarters are cut off from rest of the country,

(c) if so, whether Central Government propose to provide financial assistance under NCCF to State Government to deal with these problems, and

(d) if so, by when the assistance will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir 20 out of 38 districts in Bihar were affected by the recent floods

(b) The floods in Bihar had caused disruption of rail, road and telecommunication services. These services have now been restored to a large extent.

(c) and (d) The Central Government released Rs. 59.595 crore to the CRF of the State. In addition, Rs. 55.00 crore was released from the National Calamity contingency Fund (NCCF) to the State on *ad hoc* basis pending the receipt of a memorandum from the State Government and report of the Central Team. On the request of the State Government, the second instalment of the Central Share of the CRF for the year 2004-05 of Rs. 30.525 crore has also been recommended to the Ministry of Finance for release in advance. Taking into account the opening balance of Rs. 64.85 crore and the State share of Rs. 30.04 crore, the State Government had Rs. 240.01 crore available for flood relief.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi