

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR

OF

BIHAR AND ORISSA.

Tuesday, the 26th March, 1935.

The Council met in the Council Chamber at Patna at 11 A.M., the Hon'ble the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

INVESTIGATIONS OF THE KAMLA RIVER.

100. Babu HAREKRISHNA CHAUDHURI: Will Government be pleased to state—

(a) if they are aware of the proceedings of a meeting of the advisory flood committee of the Darbhanga district, held on the 27th November 1934 ;

(b) if the answer to clause (a) be in the affirmative, the subjects discussed and the conclusion arrived at at the said meeting ;

(c) if the said meeting was attended also by the Superintending Engineer, North Bihar Circle, the Collector of Darbhanga, the Executive Engineer of Darbhanga and the resident Engineer of the Bengal and North-Western Railway ;

(d) if so, whether these officers were of opinion that the Kamla river should be allowed to flow south-east which is its natural course, and that it should not be diverted to the west ;

(e) if the answer to clause (d) be in the affirmative, whether the said opinion has been confirmed by Government ; if not, why not ?

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in the accounts, following ordinary accounting procedure, to the heads of relief under which the expenditure was incurred. The total amount of such expenditure is not known to Government but it represents an infinitesimal fraction of the expenditure incurred under the various heads.

(c) The majority of the work in connection with the distribution of relief has been done by Government servants in addition to their own duties.

EXPENDITURE ON ADMINISTRATION, SALARIES, ALLOWANCES, ETC.,
IN CONNECTION WITH EARTHQUAKE RELIEF.

112. Mr. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA : Will Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the exact or approximate expenditure on administration, salaries, allowances, etc., in connection with earthquake relief ?

Mr. H. C. PRIOR : The hon'ble member is referred to the answer to question no. 111.

DAMUCHAK COLONY IN MUZAFFARPUR.

113. Mr. SACHCHIDANANDA SINHA : (a) Will Government be pleased to state—

(i) the amount spent in building what is known as the Damuchak colony in the town of Muzaffarpur ;

(ii) if the materials of the said colony are being disposed of ;

(iii) if so, what is the amount for which they have been, or are going to be, sold ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the loss, if any, incurred, and the amount recovered from the sale of the materials ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of such houses, and for what period they have been in actual occupation of sufferers from earthquake and floods ?

[Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha]

Mr. H. C. PRIOR : The Honorary Secretary of the Bihar and Orissa Branch of the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund reports as follows :—

In March 1934 the Collector, after causing enquiries to be made in Muzaffarpur town by the Shelter and Housing Sub-committee, reported that it was necessary to build about 2,400 huts in colonies on sites approved by the Sub-committee. He stated that of these 2,400 huts, 500 would be erected by organisations other than the Viceroy's Fund and that the Viceroy's Fund would be required to provide 1,900. The original proposal was that these huts should have tiled roofs. The Relief Commissioner examined the Collector's estimates on the spot and generally approved them but found that it was not possible to secure the quantity of tiles required for all the huts and, therefore, decided that it was necessary to roof most of the huts with the only alternative material—corrugated iron. An estimate was prepared for the cost of these 1,900 huts amounting to Rs. 6,17,893 and this estimate was approved by the Committee administering the Fund during July. The estimate included the temporary housing at Damuchak, the Post Office site and Tinkothia and the cost of a *bhusa* shed provided for the storage of fodder.

Actually according to reports received 62 huts were built on the Post Office site, 300 in Tinkothia and 1,338 in Damuchak. Of the Damuchak huts, 938 were roofed with corrugated iron, and 400 with tiles. The huts on the Post Office site and Tinkothia were fully occupied during the rains; 400 huts at Damuchak were occupied by flood refugees for four months and a further 120 by flood refugees for three months. Otherwise the maximum number of huts occupied at Damuchak during a month was 56. A decision has now been taken to sell the whole of the Damuchak huts except 200 and to retain the huts on the Post Office and Tinkothia sites.

The instructions for sale laid down that the sale should be advertised widely not only in Muzaffarpur but also in neighbouring districts and that sales should only be to the earthquake sufferers and to local bodies or Government departments up to the 15th February. Thereafter they should be sold freely. Rates were laid down for sale, the rate fixed for corrugated iron being Rs. 90 per ton. The Collector has reported that actual recoveries to date were Rs. 13,094. It is not possible at present to say what the total loss will be as only a small portion of the colony has been sold at present.

Mr. SURUJ KUMAR PRASHAD SINHA : In regard to paragraph 4 of the answer, will Government be pleased to state what fraction of the cost price of the materials has been recovered by the sale of these materials?

Mr. H. C. PRIOR : I must ask for notice, Sir.

Mr. NANDA KUMAR GHOSH : Notice as usual.