



PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
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The Department of External Affairs announced today that the Canadian Government has decided to make available \$225 thousand to assist in flood relief operations in India, Pakistan and Nepal. Of this amount, it is intended that \$100 thousand worth of aid should go to India, \$100 thousand to Pakistan and \$25 thousand to Nepal. The assistance provided will take the form of dried skim milk and drugs, commodities which are urgently required in the disaster areas. The Canadian Red Cross has undertaken to accept responsibility for the transportation of these commodities and their distribution in the countries concerned, in co-operation with the corresponding societies there.

The floods, which are described as the most extensive in recent history, have wrought widespread damage in East Bengal (Pakistan), in the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Assam in India and in Nepal. In East Bengal, flood waters have affected some 36,000 square miles, about two-thirds of the Province, causing a serious loss of property, crops and livestock and rendering millions homeless. Dacca, the Province's capital, as well as many other centres, has been flooded with consequent disruption of normal life. Urgent measures are being taken against the outbreak of epidemics. The loss to the jute crop is expected to exceed one million bales. In India, the damage done by the 1934 earthquake pales into insignificance before the misery caused by the present emergency. In Bihar, for example, ten million square miles have been inundated, affecting over seven million people, with resultant damage to crops, disruption of railway traffic and communications. Similar problems are faced in Assam, in West Bengal and in Nepal, which is facing the worst disaster within living memory.

Assistance has already been extended by the Canadian Red Cross Society to India and Pakistan out of its own resources through the provision of very substantial amounts of drugs, clothing and food supplies.

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