

LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY DUE TO HEAVY RAINS IN GUJARAT

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI (Gujarat): Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to bring to your notice this particular Special Mention. There were rains on the whole of Gujarat State, recording from four inches to seventeen inches in 24 hours. All the dams were over-flooded. Not only that, hundred people have lost their lives and 50 000 livestock have been drowned in the floods. Many villages are still out of communication in the State. Particularly Panchmahal district is cut off from communication, especially from the point of view of surface movement. Telecommunication and rail services are also badly affected. The railway line between Dohad and Bharuch is also damaged very badly. Not only that. Many villages have been inundated and the Gujarat Chief Minister's helicopter could not land in Khera district. There has been a lot of damage done to the houses. Houses to the tune of 4,000 have collapsed. More than 400 villages in Khera district are out of communication. Unimaginable damage has also been done to the railway bridges. Some railway culverts have also been damaged. Railway track has been affected. There has been considerable loss of human life and livestock. There has been damage of more than Rs. 150 crores. The actual loss of life and damage to property is yet to be estimated. I would, therefore, like to request that the Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture should immediately undertake a visit to the affected areas of Gujarat and sanction interim relief to Gujarat immediately for the damage that the State has suffered on account of the heavy rains and floods.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Madam, I also associate myself with his submission. I was born in Gujarat. The situation in Gujarat is so bad today that the railways have cancelled the Navjeevan Express from Madras to Ahmedabad. The whole of Gujarat, particularly Panchmahal district, is badly affected. The Government of India should immediately make arrangements for assessing the damage and also sanction immediate relief to Gujarat.

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL (Gujarat): Madam, all the crops of the farmers have been damaged. The farmers have suffered a loss of more than Rs. 500 crores. I hope the Central Government will do something for the farmers and also extend relief to all those who have suffered in these floods. One hundred and fortythree lives have been lost.

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
महोदयों, . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

उप-भाषति : वन, हों गया। इस मामले पर सब बोल चुके हैं।

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE REGARDING RAM-PANT CORRUPTION, MISMANAGEMENT AND MALPRACTICES IN THE NATIONALISED BANKS AND THE ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN THE MATTER—Contd.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to rampant corruption, mismanagement and malpractices in the nationalised banks and the action taken by the Government in the matter.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN, (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR), IN THE CHAIR]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir.

Government and RBI are seriously concerned about the complaints of corruption, mismanagement and malpractices in the public sector banks and are taking several preventive and punitive steps for tackling these matters.

Since 1969, when the banks were nationalised, the number of bank branches of commercial banks has increased from about 8,000 to 58,000. Similarly, during this period, deposits have grown from about Rs. 4500 crores to about Rs.