

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Visit by a Team of Indian Artistes to South Africa

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Madam, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting is also in the House and I am grateful to you for the opportunity given to me to make my Special Mention.

To our great surprise, a team comprising some Indian film stars, comedians and singers visited South Africa to take part in some commercial show there. I want to draw the attention of the Government to this. We have a long tradition of being against the prising some Indian film stars, come-release of Dr. Nelson Mandela and lifting of the ban on the South Africa Communist Party, the South African apartheid regime is continuing its repression on the black people and the people of South Africa are continuing their struggle against apartheid.

India is a champion for the cause of the struggle against apartheid. It is a matter of shame that a delegation went to South Africa to take part in a commercial show. I am not prepared to call it an Indian delegation because this delegation does not represent the culture, the traditions and the principles of India. When we get our passport, it is written there that visit to South Africa is not permitted.

I want to know from the Government how they have been granted permission to visit South Africa. Even after the visit of those artistes to South Africa, which is banned for Indians, sanctions of the international community against South Africa are still in force. As it is a gross violation of our principles and ideals, I would request the Information and Broadcasting Minister that, at least, the Official media All India Radio and Doordarshan should boycott those artistes in their programmes. I would also like to know from the Government those artistes and the organizers of the show could manage or manipulate to get permission for the visit to South Africa.

I reiterate my demand that the Minister in charge of Information and Broadcasting should issue some instructions to All-India Radio and Doordarshan to boycott those artistes and singers in the official media. Thank you Madam.

Floods in Gujarat

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI (Gujarat): Madam, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important issue. Madam, I just attempted the day before, during the Zero Hour, to draw the attention of the Government to the heavy rains and flood in the Gujarat State.

Madam, on the 23rd, 24th and 25th, there were heavy rains in Gujarat because of which several districts like Khera, Baroda, Panchmahal, Ahmedabad, Banaskantha, Broach, Surendranagar, Surat and Sabarkantha were affected. The highest rainfall was recorded in the Panchmahal district which was 476 mm. in 24 hours. There was a consequential flood, because of which roads were damaged and more than 400 villages were affected. Not only that ninety-six persons have lost their lives. During the rainy season, the total number of persons who had lost their lives was 170. Particular in Kalol, Shehra and Godhra, more than 4000 houses were marooned. Many villages were cut off and they had no surface communication or rail communication. All the telephone exchanges in the Gujarat State were not working for two days. Big bridges were also breached - and for two days "there" - was no surface communication or rail communication. All the telephone exchanges in the Gujarat State were not working for two days. Big bridges were also breached and for two days there was no surface communication. Because of these particular rains, there has been damage to the crops also. More than 5,000 houses have also collapsed and the damage, as reported by the Gujarat Government on a rough estimate, is worth about Rs. 395 crores. The Central Government has been requested to render an interim assistance of Rs. 50 crores.