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Title : Rescue of drowning school children by villagers, Administration and Indian Army in district Sonapat, Haryana.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Sir, I regret to inform the House that an incident involving a school bus occurred yesterday which was carrying 29 children of village Bali Qutubpur in Sonapat district, adjoining my home district. The bus was on its way to the school in the village Kheri Gujjar. The unfortunate accident resulted in loss of lives of 6 children while 23 lives were saved.

While, I am sure, the whole House stands in unity with me here today and with the aggrieved families in the hour of their sorrow, I also stand to appreciate the spirit and courage shown by villagers of Bali Qutubpur, Aahulana and others in rescue work that resulted in safety of 23 out of 29 children caught up in the drowned bus accident. The exemplary courage and unity shown in these efforts by all and everyone including the villagers, the immigrant labours from Bihar, the children who ignored their own injuries to help rescue their colleagues, the district administration, the Indian Army, the private Pediatricians of Dhankar Nursing Home, the elected members from various legislative bodies cutting across the party lines, is an example and a source of inspiration for all of us – the Indians – today. Although my heart trembles as I remember the loss of six departed children, my head is still high as I realise that I belong to a nation where people who do not think twice or hesitate to put their own lives at risk in an attempt to save the lives of our children.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair associates on behalf of the whole House and shares your sentiments.

Chaudhary Lal Singh – not present.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.