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Title: Need to provide adequate infrastructure facilities and security to pilgrims of Amarnath Shrine in Jammu Kashmir.

SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR (PARBHANI): I would like to raise an important issue regarding providing basic facilities to the devotees of Amarnath. Indian pilgrims pay homage to Bhole Nath Shiv Shankar ice lingam at Amarnath cave every year. The weather conditions are so unpredictable that at one time the sun is shining brightly and then suddenly with a wave of cold wind, chill weather creeps in. Rain and snowfall are very unpredictable here.

There is an urgent need to provide proper electricity, water, reasonable food, telephone/mobile connection, medical facilities especially during Amarnath Yatra Period. Yatra route from Baltal/Chandanwari to Holy Cave is too narrow and muddy. Therefore, these routes should be widened enough and concrete road should be constructed on the pattern of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi route. These routes should be properly fenced with concrete/stone and steel railing/grills/pipes to avoid any further loss of life of the pilgrims and animals during Yatra. I also demand that fool proof security arrangements should be made and it must be ensured that any type of incidents/mishap do not occur in future. On the spot/current registration of pilgrims must be done, as it is far more convenient for the pilgrims. There is an urgent need to build more community Halls with all basic facilities at various parts adjoining Amarnath. The local people around these areas are totally depended on this Yatra. The Government should provide more modern infrastructure facilities by involving local people and their services. These are long standing demands of all devotees. I urge upon the Government to consider the above genuine demands of crores of devotees and build new infrastructure and proper basic facilities in and around Lord Amarnath shrine so that more people can get darshan.