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Title: Need to declare the calamity caused by floods in Assam as National Calamity and provide more funds for rehabilitation of people affected by the fury of floods in the State.

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI): Assam suffers from huge losses in terms of lives, property, cropped land, dwelling units and infrastructure every year. As per the official report of Assam Government during 2014, Assam has witnessed havoc of floods three times including cloudburst that caused the deaths of at least 67 people and over 42 lakh people of more than 4,000 villages in 23 districts of the State, including my constituency Dhubri and Goalpara were badly affected while about four lakh hectares of cropped area were damaged. The report also said that at least 84 roads, 86 RCC bridges, 113 SPT bridges and 126 culverts were also damaged by the flood.

The Central Government had announced a package of Rs. 674 crore for the State. My question is whether the Government has any information about the amount reaching the affected people. As per my information, they have not received any amount so far. The problem is that every time the flood causes disaster, the Government announces amount for the affected people but unfortunately they have often been deprived of such assistance. Therefore, I would request the Government to put in place a mechanism to make sure that the amount reaches the deserving people and also make the State Government accountable for that. However, I appreciate the Central Government for announcing Rs. 674 crore for the State, but I request for a grant of at least Rs. 1,500 crore because the flood and cloudburst made irreparable losses and Rs. 674 crore is not enough for rehabilitation of flood affected people of Assam. I would also request the Government to kindly think seriously about declaring flood of Assam as a National Calamity as it causes loss of lives and property every year pushing the State towards backwardness and poverty. I also request to grant an appropriate amount for controlling Brahmaputra in order to utilize its water in a better way.