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Title : Need to provide financial assistance to the distressed farmers and people affected due to heavy rains in Godavari river basin in Marthwada.

SHRI GANESHRAO NAGORAO DUDHGAONKAR (PARBHANI): I am raising long standing issue regarding problem being faced by people around Godavari river Basin Project in my Parbhani Constituency.

A major dam named the "Jayakwadi dam" is located near Paithan, and is known for attracting a wide variety of resident and migratory birds. It is very important dam project for Marathwada area and supported by World Bank. This dam project has experienced its worst flood in known history when the dam floodgates were opened because of heavy rainfall in the region recently. Due to heavy floods, many villages were wiped out situated in Shahagadh, Jalna, Parbhani and Nanded districts. More than 600 villages in these districts situated around Godavari river basin have faced heavy losses due to flood and heavy rain during the year 2006 and 2008. Many farmer's agriculture land has been washed away. Their important produces of Cotton seeds, sugarcane, banana, orange have been destroyed. Thus, they have lost all their investment, land, animals and importantly their homes in these natural calamities. The farmer's and common people are still in distressed condition and are facing lot of problems for their livelihood. No financial grants have been released from State and Central Government so far. There is an urgent need for providing financial aid to the farmers situated around Godavari river basin.

I request the Central Government to provide urgent financial assistance to the distressed farmers and people affected due to heavy rains in Marathwada region.