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Tite: Issue regarding repeated boat accidents in Assam in Dumri district.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (GUWAHATI): Sir, I wish to make a statement in the House and pray for the people who died in a boat accident in Assam in Dumri District.

We have entered in the 21st Century and passed 65 years of Independence, but still the communication system in the parts of Assam is very bad and as there is no bridge across the Brahmaputra on Dhubri side, people have to cross the mighty river in the boats which are very dilapidated and worn out. The Inland Water Department in Assam runs its steamers and machine boats which are in very bad condition and that is why such types of incidents occur regularly.

Moreover, the Government has got no control over the contractors who run these services. Brahmaputra is a huge river and in the rainy season, it becomes just like a sea. So travelling through the dilapidated ferries is very much dangerous; there should be control of the Government.

When the incident occurred on the 30th April, nearly 400 people had boarded that ferry. Only 100 or 150 people can board the ferry but even then it was overloaded. That is why it was drowned in the river and in that tragic incident a number of people died. This most unfortunate incident happened because of the recklessness and negligence of the concerned authority. Endangering their lives, people have to cross the mighty river either to eke out their livelihood or to attend official or other work. These types of incidents might happen repeatedly if the Government does not become cautious.

I would like to request the hon. Home Minister that he must show concern for the people and he must give adequate compensation to the people who died, who lost their lives and who are still missing and the Government should try to recover their bodies.