

18.03 hrs.

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Thirteenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI  
H.K.L. BHAGAT) : Sir, I beg to present  
Thirteenth Report of Business Advisory  
Committee.

DISCUSSION RE. SITUATION ARIS-  
ING OUT OF FLOODS, DROUGHT  
AND OTHER NATURAL CALAMITIES  
IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUN-  
TRY—Contd.

[Translation]

\*\*SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN  
RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot) : Mr.  
Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giv-  
ing me time to participate in this discus-  
sion.

In an agricultural country like India,  
this year also somewhere there is deluge  
and somewhere drought. In Gujarat, out  
of 17 districts, 10 districts are facing  
drought conditions. Out of the 184  
talukas, 127 talukas did not have rains.  
Rajkot, Jambagar, Junagarh, Kutch,  
Banaskantha, Amreli, Mehsana, Sabarkan-  
tha and other districts are in the grip of  
drought. Rajkot is my constituency as  
well as a district, I had warned about  
it during the last session, but it is a  
matter of regret that the Government did  
not take it seriously.

Though the Gujarat Government have  
speeded up their activities to face the  
situation, but that will not suffice. The  
Central Government will also have to  
extend help in this regard. Otherwise, the  
people of the State will have to face acute  
difficulties. The human life and livestock  
in Gujarat are in danger.

Today it is quite necessary to save  
livestock. In my constituency, there is  
acute shortage of fodder. To remove  
this shortage, I suggest that like the  
Government of Maharashtra which has  
removed the shortage of grass by bringing  
fodder producing unit machine and saved  
the Kharif crop, the Government of  
Gujarat should also do something by  
adopting scientific methods or means so  
that we are able to save animals from  
going to slaughter houses. For this purpose,  
the Central Government should also pro-  
vide necessary equipments to the State  
Government.

Today the employment problem is a  
big problem. Therefore, maximum possi-  
ble relief-works should be started and  
adequate wages should be paid in these  
days of price rise.

It is a matter of great surprise that  
today in Saurashtra in my district where  
big industries for manufacturing irrigation  
pumps are existing, there is shortage of  
water. The people are not getting even  
sufficient drinking water. Government  
should take necessary steps in this direc-  
tion.

The Narmada Project is under con-  
struction in Gujarat. Its water will have  
to be made available to Saurashtra. The  
women in Saurashtra have to go miles  
away to fetch a pitcher of water. Just  
think of their condition in hot summer.

A big project like Narmada is being  
built in Gujarat and the people of Saura-  
shtra are not getting water from there. Is  
it not injustice to Saurashtra ?

In conclusion, I would like to request  
the Central Government to give full help  
to the Government of Gujarat to make its  
Master Plan regarding drought relief suc-  
cessful.

I express my thanks for the opportu-  
nity given to me to speak today.

\*\*The speech was originally delivered  
in Gujarati.