



Nitin Gadkari

National President, Bharatiya Janata Party

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Date: September 25, 2010

Dear *DE. Manmohan Singh ji,*

Namaskar,

I would like to draw your kind attention to the havoc caused by floods in several parts of the country.

The unusual monsoon fury has resulted in wide-spread damage caused by the overflowing rivers.

Many people have died, crops have been damaged, roads have been submerged and thousands of villages have been cut off and hundreds of thousands of families are caught up in the flooding.

The flood situation continues to worsen in Uttarakhand, Eastern Bihar and Northern Uttar Pradesh. Several low-lying areas of Delhi are under knee-deep water. Uttarakhand is the worst affected where dams are brimming with dangerous levels of water and even the Tehri Dam is threatened.

Heavy rains in Nepal have breached embankments of some rivers in Bihar and the flood victims in these states are worried about getting enough food to survive.

The state governments in the flood-affected regions are gearing up their limited resources to tide over the difficult situation and some relief and rehabilitation work has started and every possible effort is underway to bring the situation under control.

Also, as a result of the unusually erratic monsoon, many areas have been declared officially in drought.

Sir, you may recall that the Supreme Court had on August 12, 2010, asked the Centre to consider free distribution of food grain to the poor instead of allowing it to rot in Food Corporation of India godowns.

The Union Agriculture Minister Shri Sharad Pawar had said that the government would honour the decision of the apex court.



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I would like to suggest to allocate the food grains lying in the FCI godowns to the flood/drought-affected states as central assistance for free distribution among the flood/drought victims through their respective public distribution and other systems with top priority to those who have been uprooted and the farmers whose crop has been destroyed.

I understand that 605 Lac tones of food grain are lying with the government as against the optimum storage capacity of 425 Lac tones. As a result 180 lac tones are lying in the open godowns and getting rotten.

I am sure you will accept this suggestion and make available food grains for free distribution to the flood/drought victims.

With regards,

Yours

(Nitin Gadkari)

To,

Dr. Manmohan Singh
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
New Delhi