



FINALLY KOSI RIVER BOWED DOWN...

Any country, state, place or person can be a victim of national calamity. It becomes the moral duty of any person to give financial, physical and

mental help to the 'victims'. Whenever there was a national calamity, famine, earthquake or epidemics, people helped the victims. The people of Bihar faced the calamity in the month of September. The river Kosi washed the people away. People lost their lives and property, people came on the roads and were starving for food. The house, the property, the cattle's washed away in the floods. In this difficult situation, the people helped them and made them restore their energy and live their life.

On the call of Respected Swamiji Ramdev Ji Maharaj, industrialists, capitalists, businessmen and ordinary people donated for the noble cause. In 2005, Divya Yog Mandir (Trust) extended its help to the Tsunami victims, which destructed Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Pondicherry and Andaman Nicobar Islands.

The main problem of the Kosi is lack of maintenance work at the dam. The Kosi Barrage is situated in Nepal but the responsibility of its maintenance and repairs lies with the Indian government.

During the floods thousands of people took shelter in the safe areas. If the dam were repaired at proper time then thousands of people would have been saved. The badly affected areas were Madehpura, Supaul, Saharsa, where people lost everything.

People of India along with the State and Central gov-

ernment came forward to help the flood victims. Many people of other states and celebrities took part actively in the rehabilitation work.

Yogriishi Swami Ramdev made arrangements from 'Patanjali Emergency Relief Fund' in order to help the 40-lakh people of Bihar. Lakhs of rupees were spent in the distribution of medicines, parched rice, jaggery, salt, matchboxes and other daily use items. The medical practitioners helped the flood victims. 15,000 Yog teachers and helpers of Patanjali Yog Committee were able to give relief to 16 districts and 1708 villages of the flood affected areas of Bihar.

Camps were organized to help the people who were affected by the flood. 20 permanent camps were organized for the flood victims who were helping the people living in the low-lying areas. They were given food, clothes, other essential commodities and medicines. Victims were moved with this gesture of Swami Ji. People were relieved with the kind of support they received from the helpers.

Respected Swami Ramdev Ji asked the State and Central Government to organize a committee who would keep a check on the rivers and the dams. If permanent arrangements are not made for the rivers then Bihar state will be washed away, which is not a good sign for the country.

After the Indian Government if any body had worked for the flood victims, we can say it is 'Patanjali Yogpeeth'. The Patanjali Yogpeeth supplied food, medicines, clothes etc. to the victims till the water level came down and people went back and settled in their houses. Kosi River had to bow down in front of the brave hearted people and started receding. People of India served the victims with great humanity, but where is the guarantee that such calamity would not occur again?

Such calamity arose with one third of the Kosi, in future what about the Gandak, old Gandhak, Bagmati,

Kamla-Balan, which are ready to shower on Bihar. The rivers are becoming shallow because of the Silt. Since a decade the levels of Ganga, Gandak, Kosi of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have dropped by one and half to six meters. Any extra amount of rain may cost their lives.

Why do the rivers swell so much and create havoc? It is not only because of the rain or glaciers; they change their course when they are full. This is main reason, which took away lives of the people in Bihar. In normal days the water level of Kosi river is 55 thousands cubic centimeters, during monsoon the level increases 20 times. The silt also increases in the same proportion.

During last 200 years Kosi has changed its path 17 times and reached 110 km west, because of silt accumulation it returned back to its old path. There was thick accumulation of sand and stones. More than a dozen rivers in North India are becoming shallow because of the silt deposit.

The Prime Minister of Nepal P.K.Prachanda has extended his help to repair the Kosi dam. In his meeting

with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President of the Nepal Maitri Manch, Mr.Sharad Yadav, he expressed his concern for the destruction caused by the Kosi River. The Water Resources Ministers of both the countries have agreed for a three level committee, which will work for the safety measures. Both the countries decided that a high dam should be constructed on the Sapta Kosi. Better late than never, at least now the Kosi, which is causing a regular disaster for the people of Bihar, will prove an advantage. The Water Resource State Minister Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav has assured that all the related problems will be solved in the three-level committee. Mr. Prachand also assured that power is primary for his government. Without taking the name of Kosi he said that he would produce 10 thousand mega watts of electricity and India will also get benefit from it.

Permanent arrangements are being made to save people from Kosi and many people are still waiting for shelter.

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