

Bihar Revisited

Dear Rotary Leaders,

The havoc caused by the floods in Bihar has benumbed the country. The loss is in astronomical figures. What is more vital to us in Rotary is the displacement it has caused in the lives of over three million people. The fury of the flood waters might have abated but the community is still putting together whatever little is left and people are desperately trying to live another day.

Help is pouring in but the main aim of Rotary is to ensure that the assistance reaches men and women who are in dire straits. The immediate task before us is to deliver the much needed relief directly to the affected persons.

Most of them are huddled together in makeshift shelters. What was once their house is now a mass of rubble. It is important that the children be saved from epidemic that may breakout.

We have visited Bihar and surveyed the affected areas. A meeting was held recently with the Rotary leaders including our respected Past Rotary International President Raja Saboo to draw up an action plan for providing relief to the victims in Bihar. It was decided to form a committee with me as its Chairman, PRIP Raja Saboo as the Advisor and PRID Kalyan Banerjee as the Vice Chairman. The other members of the committee are PRID Sudharsan Agarwal, PRID OP Vaish, PRID Sushil Gupta, DG Dr. L B Singh, RI District 3250, PDG Dr. Ramesh Chandra, DGE Anil Kumar Singh, PDG Kamal Sanghvi, all from RI District 3250, PDG Ravi Sehgal and PDG Shekhar Mehta from RI District 3291.

A bank account under the name of "Rotary India Bihar Initiative for Flood Relief and Rehabilitation



Fund" has been created to collect the contributions made by Rotarians. I request you to make the cheques and demand drafts payable only in favour of this account and forward it to PRID Kalyan Banerjee, United Phosphorous Ltd., Uniphos House, C D Marg, 11th Road, Madhu Park, Khar (W), Mumbai 400 052.

I will be accompanying PRID Kalyan Banerjee, PRID O P Vaish, PRID Sushil Gupta and PDG Vivek Tankha to visit Bihar again on October 2, 2008. We will be implementing the decisions taken to streamline the distribution of relief materials and ensuring that the money given by the Rotarians reach the beneficiaries in the form of materials and other essential supplies. The hapless victims of the flood now depend on your benevolence. Do not let them down.



*Rtn. Ashok Mahajan
Director, Rotary International*