

## **Regarding safety audit of tunnels in view of recent tunnel accident in Uttarkashi in Uttarakhand-laid**

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** The Uttarkashi tunnel accident has been a disaster that left the entire Country shocked and numb. The tunnel collapse had made the workers immovable and confined under a mountain for 17 days. The rescue efforts, led by the unwavering valour of various agencies and experts, have been nothing short of heroic. We are grateful for their resilience and courage. Among the workers trapped in the Silkyara-Barkot tunnel, 3 were from Bengal and 2 were from the constituency which I represent. On behalf of the 41 workers who were trapped below a mountain and their families, I demand a thorough investigation in the matter. Everyone wants to know why the safety tunnel was not made. Why were the Government guidelines disregarded for the project? Why were the Supreme Court appointed committee recommendations of building narrow tunnels ignored? Why was the construction initiated before proper assessment of the impact was conducted? I request the Government to conduct safety audits for all tunnels in the Country and to reevaluate the need and methodology of building the Char Dham project which these tunnels were a part of.