

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 587
ANSWERED ON 25TH JULY, 2024**

SILKYARA TUNNEL COLLAPSE IN UTTARAKHAND

587. SHRI SUDAMA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government conducted an investigation into the reasons for the collapse of Silkyara tunnel in Uttarakhand, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the workers trapped inside the tunnel were provided compensations, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any civil or criminal action was taken against the erring contractors/ company and officials responsible for the collapse, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes a new technical feasibility and/or environmental impact review of the roads and tunnels, part of Char Dham project keeping in view the fragility of the Himalayan region; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) A Committee of Experts has been constituted by the Government for investigation of the reasons for collapse of the

Silkyara Tunnel on NH-134 in the State of Uttarakhand. The committee has submitted its preliminary report to the Ministry on 22.12.2023.

(b) As financial support, each worker trapped inside the tunnel has been paid a sum of Rs. 2 lakh in addition to 2 months bonus and salary by the contractor. In addition to above, State Government of Uttarakhand has also provided financial support of Rs. 1 lakh each to all trapped workers.

(c) Show causes have been issued to the contractor and the consultant looking after the supervision of the work by National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL). The final action against the erring contractors/company and officials responsible for the collapse to be taken based on the final recommendations of the Committee of Experts.

(d) & (e) Under the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has constituted a High Powered Committee(HPC) comprising representatives from various reputed institutes like Physical Research Laboratory, Wildlife Institute of India, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Central Soil Conservation Research Institute, National Institute of Disaster Management, Forest Research Institute, MoEF&CC officials, etc., with mandate to consider the cumulative and independent impact of Chardham Projects on the entire Himalayan Valleys and give directions to conduct Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)/Rapid EIA. Accordingly, directions of HPC are implemented.
