

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:192
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2010
TACKLING DISASTERS IN PILGRIMAGE DESTINATIONS
Shukla Shri Balkrishna Khanderao Balu Shukla

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Disaster Management Authority undertakes rescue operations of the pilgrims stranded in various pilgrimage destinations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether pilgrims have been reported stranded due to the incidents of cloud burst and incessant rain in different States in the country including Chardham in Uttarakhand in the recent past; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the rescue and relief measures carried out for them, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 192 FOR 23.11.2010 REGARDING "TACKLING DISASTERS IN PILGRIMAGE DESTINATIONS"

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) deploys personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), from time to time, to undertake operations for rescue of pilgrims stranded on/in various pilgrimage routes/destinations primarily on the requests received from the State Governments and also in other emergent/precautionary situations. Details of such deployment of NDRF in the recent past in respect of pilgrims/pilgrimage destinations are given in Annexure-I.

(c) & (d): The primary responsibility for undertaking rescue and relief measures in the event of a disaster rests with the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing appropriate financial and logistic support through deployment /dispatch of men, specialized equipments, relief material, essential commodities, etc. and such other assistance as may be required by the affected States to meet the situation effectively. Information relating to stranded pilgrims in different States is not centrally maintained by the Government of India.

Only the State of Uttarakhand has reported about pilgrims having been stranded, in the recent past, due to cloud burst/incessant rain and about rescue & relief measures undertaken by the State Government. The details are given in Annexure-II.