

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:419
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013
DEATHS OF AMARNATH PILGRIMS .
Mahendrasinh Shri Chauhan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Supreme Court has expressed its concern over the increasing number of deaths of Amarnath pilgrims; and
- (b) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI R.P.N. SINGH)

(a): Yes Madam.

(b): During 2012-13, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in a suo moto Writ Petition 'Supreme Court of its own motion Vs. UOI & Others', took cognizance of unfortunate deaths and had constituted a Special High Power Committee (SHPC) with The Chief Secretary J&K as its Nodal Officer vide Order dated 20.10.2012.

The Court vide its judgment dated 13th December, 2012 endorsed the SHPC Report and issued certain directions particularly for upgradation of tracks and medical facilities in the Yatra area. To implement the recommendations of the SHPC and the directions contained in its judgment, the Apex court has also constituted a Sub-committee comprising the Chief Secretary, J&K, CEO Shri Amarnath Shrine Board (SASB) and the Secretary, Home Department, Government of J&K for compliance of the recommendations of the SHPC and the judgment. Considering the loss of lives, the SASB and the State Government have upgraded the medical care infrastructure along the yatra routes and enlarged the publicity campaign by issuing yatra advisories.