

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2672
ANSWERED ON:26.08.2013
CHECK ON DISASTER
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the meteorological department issued timely warnings of heavy rains and landslides and even suggested that the Char Dham yatra of the holy towns Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamunotri and Gangotri be postponed for some days but State Government of Uttarakhand ignored the warnings in this regard;
- (b) if so, the total number of persons died in Uttarakhand disaster;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take any action against erring officials of Uttarakhand Government who ignored warnings issued by the meteorological department and caused massive loss of human life and property in disaster; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (d) According to available information, India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued general warnings for isolated heavy to very heavy rains on 15th and 16th June, 2013 in the State of Uttarakhand and Dehradun centre of IMD issued local advisories in relation to the Char Dham Yatra accordingly. The State Government issued advisories to all the concerned districts authorities. Announcements were made by police personnel stationed at Kedarnath, Rambada and Gaurikund alerting general public.

As per available information, 580 people have lost their lives due to the natural disaster caused by heavy rainfall, cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides in June 2013 in Uttarakhand.