

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:765
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2014
AMARNATH PILGRIMAGE
Adityanath Shri Yogi

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the route covered under the Amarnath Yatra is in difficult terrain and accident prone;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of accidents reported along with the number of persons died/injured in those accidents during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the details of compensation paid to the victims; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for the safety and security of the pilgrims visiting the holy shrine of Amarnath?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU)

(a) & (b): Shri Amarnath Ji Yatri passes through very difficult and inhospitable terrain prone to the landslides, shooting stone, snow avalanches, etc. The climate condition enroute and at the Holy Cave is also quite unpredictable. The details of incidents / accidents along with the number of Yatris killed/ injured during the last three years and current year is given below.

Year	Total incidents of accidents	Persons died in different type of accidents	Persons injured in different type of accidents
2011	33	1	12
2012	30	27	84
2013	22	0	11
2014#	10	4	23

(# upto July 08, 2014)

(c): Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board (SASB) has been providing insurance cover, free of cost, to the Yatris since 2010. The group insurance provides for payment of Rs.1.00 lakh to every registered Yatri if he/ she dies in an accident (natural or manmade) from the date of his/ her entry into the J&K State and upto his/ her exit during the Yatra period.

(d): Keeping in view the natural vagaries and the terrorist threat enroute the Holy Cave and in order to ensure incident free Yatra, adequate security arrangements are being made right from Lakanpur to the Holy Cave along both Baltal and Pahalgam routes for which local police and Central Armed Police Forces(CAPF) are deputed in sufficient number. Army personnel also provide area dominance along the routes leading to the Holy Cave.

The work of upgrading the tracks and fixing railings along the critical stretches of the track is also being done by the concerned authorities. Medical facilities have been provided at various identified locations. Six mountain rescue teams have been deployed at the identified location to evacuate the injured/ sick Yatris. Five advanced Weather Stations have also been installed.