

Title : Statement regarding relief and rehabilitation in the aftermath of Jammu and Kashmir earthquake.

(ii) Relief and rehabilitation in the aftermath of

Jammu and Kashmir earthquake

MR. SPEAKER: Item No.7 – Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal. You have got six statements to make. You can lay them on the Table of the House.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (SOUTH DELHI): Sir, these are important matters.

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly, you can give notice. Any hon. Member can give notice. I invite notices from you. It is not that I am suppressing any discussion.

* THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): On behalf of Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding relief and rehabilitation in the aftermath of Jammu and Kashmir earthquake.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 2867/2005.

As all the Hon'ble Members are aware , an earthquake of an intensity of 7.4 on the Richter scale occurred on 8th October, 2005. The epicenter of the Earthquake was in Pakistan at Latitude 34.6 N and Longitude 73.0 E, 55 Kms, west-north west of Muzaffarabad. The tremors of the earthquake were felt in several States of Northern India which inter-alia includes the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab and Uttaranchal. The State of Jammu & Kashmir has been the worst affected.

2. In the State of Jammu & Kashmir, the districts affected in the Kashmir Division were Srinagar, Naramulla, Kupwara, Pulwama and Budgam and in Jammu Division, the districts affected are Udhampur, Kathua, Poonch, Doda and Rajouri. Uri and Tangdhar were the worst affected. 95 villages of Uri in Baramulla district and 42 villages of Tangdhar in Kupwara district were affected, of which 7 villages in Uri and 7 villages in Tangdhar were severely affected.

3. The State Government has reported loss of lives and damage to property as per their provisional assessments, as under:-

1336 persons (1216 Civilians and 120 Defence and Central Para Military Forces) lost their lives.

6587 persons (6240 civilians and 347 Defence and Central Para Military Forces personnel) are reported to be injured.

38875 houses/buildings (36,693 in Kashmir division, 2182 in Jammu division are reported to be fully damaged.

71,078 houses (53,000 in Kashmir division and 18,078 in Jammu division are reported to have been partially damaged.

4. The Government of India immediately responded to the situation and provided financial and logistic support to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for undertaking rescue and relief operations in the earthquake affected areas. The MHA Control Room, which functions round the clock, closely monitored the situation caused by the earthquake. An advisory was issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 8th October 2005 to the important Central Ministries/Departments to discharge necessary Emergency Support Functions in the affected areas. The Army & Para-Military Forces located in J & K promptly responded to the situation and provided full support to the local Administration in carrying out relief and rescue operations.

5. The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Defence Minister and Chairperson UPA visited the affected areas to review the relief and rehabilitation efforts. The Cabinet Secretary and the Union Home Secretary have been holding regular meetings to review the overall situation and relief operations on ground.

6. Two senior officers of MHA were immediately deputed to Srinagar to coordinate relief efforts with State Government.

7. The situation caused by the earthquake was reviewed regularly at various levels in the Government. An amount of Rs. 1000 crores was immediately released to the State Government on 10th October, 2005 from the national Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). The second installment of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) i.e. Rs.32.42 crore was also released in advance, on 10th October 2005, to facilitate immediate relief operations. On 11th October, 2005, the Hon'ble Prime Minister visited the affected areas of the State to review the relief operations with the State Government and announced further release of Rs. 500 crore to the Govt. of J & K for relief and rehabilitation in the affected areas. Out of this amount of Rs. 500 crore, Rs. 200.28 crore has been released by the Ministry of Finance as advance from Normal Central Assistance/advance payment of state share of Union Taxes/duties.

8. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team was also deputed to the State between 11th to 14th October, 2005 to make an assessment of the damage caused by the earthquake and requirement of funds by the State Government. Additional financial assistance will be considered based on the report of the Central Team, and as per laid down procedure.

9. The Armed Forces and Central Para Military Forces promptly responded to the situation and have rendered invaluable support to the local administration in rescue, relief and rehabilitation operation.

10. The Emergency Support line Central Ministries/Departments have been coordinating action with their counterparts in the State for extending all necessary assistance required by the State Government. Some of the actions taken by various Ministries/Departments are given below.

11. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare have provided adequate supplies of essential medicines and equipment etc. to the State Government. Teams of doctors and Public Health Specialists have been deployed to assist the Army and State authorities in conducting medical relief activities and instituting public health measures.

12. The Department of Food and Public Distribution has made available adequate stocks of food grains and sugar to the earthquake affected areas of the State including Uri, Tangdhar and Poonch.

13. There were adequate stocks of POL and LPG in the State. Additional allocation of 3000 KL of Kerosene Oil has been sanctioned under PDS to meet any exigent situation.

14. The Department of Drinking Water Supply was released an amount of Rs. 2.00 crore to the State Government from the provision of 5% allocation under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) to meet the contingencies arising out of the earthquake including construction of new handpumps in lieu of chocked/damaged/handpumps.

15. The Ministry of Urban Development is (i) constructing 130 Community Halls at 130 locations with pre-fabricated materials for usage as shelters, (ii) constructing Building Demonstration Centres, and (iii) organizing training programmes for the technical professionals viz. engineers of Govt. of J & K.

16. Telecommunication network was made operational in the earthquake affected areas of the State within 48

hours. The telephone exchanges in Uri and Tangdhar have been made operational. 7 STDs/PCOs (Uri-4 and Tangdhar-3) are being operated free of charge for the general public. 104 INMARSAT Satellite phones have been deployed to improve communication in the affected areas.

17. Electricity supply has been restored in most of the affected areas of the State.

18. Department of Women and Child Development is setting up three Swadhar Homes at Kupwara, Poonch and Uri which would provide shelter, food, clothes etc. to orphans and widows. Cash assistance of Rs. 10,000 is being provided to each widow.

19. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has organized, through five domestic airlines, airlifting of 199.3 MTs of relief material, free of charge to Srinagar/Jammu from various parts of the country.

20. Ministry of Railways have transported, relief material free of charge, to the affected areas of J&K.

21. The Hon'ble Members would agree that in view of ensuing winter season, the major area of concern for the present is to provide shelter to all the affected persons. The State Government and the Government of India have accorded due priority to the provision of shelters to all the earthquake affected families whose houses have been fully/severely damaged prior to the onset of winter season. To facilities this objective there has been a convergence of effort by various agencies through which various options have been explored and synchronized in the formulation of a definite time bound Action Plan.

22. Keeping in view the exigency of the matter, I had alongwith the Chief Minister, Jammu & Kashmir conducted a detailed review on the overall relief operations, with specific reference to providing shelter to the earthquake affected families on 22nd October 2005. Thereafter I have alongwith Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir conducted a further detailed follow up review on 21st November, 2005 which was attended among other by the members of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Planning Commission, besides senior officers of the Government of India and State Government who attended the meeting. Through this concerted effort a comprehensive report on the provision of shelter and relief material to the earthquake affected people is given below.

23. In its immediate response at providing shelters, the focus of the Govt. was on providing tents to the affected persons. The Govt. of India has already mobilized and made available to the Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir approximately 28,612 tents up to 22nd November 2005 which includes 2,300 high altitude/arctic imported tents. We propose to supply approximately 30,900 tents to the State Government by the end of November 2005 and about 50,620 by December 2005. In addition, provisional figures on relief material provided to the earthquake affected persons, through logistical support provided by MHA includes, 46, 153 tarpaulin sheets, 3,305 sleeping bags, 17,340 mattresses, 2,04,470 blankets and 2,51,466 woollens.

24. To facilitate the process of providing shelter to the affected persons, the State Government has announced a financial assistance of Rs. 1.00 lakh to each of the affected families, whose houses were fully damaged, for the reconstruction of their damaged houses on their own. The distribution of first installment of 40% of the said amount i.e. 40,000/- to each such beneficiary had started w.e.f. 19.10.2005 and an amount of Rs.84.00 crores is reported to have been distributed by the State Government upto 21st November 2005.

25. This assistance provided by the State Government has enabled the affected people to start the process of rebuilding their houses partially by salvaging CGI Sheets and timber from the debris of their houses and also by purchasing CGI sheets and timber from sale outlets at Tangdhar, Uri and Poonch owned by the J& K State Forest Corporation and from SICOP, a PSU of the State Government.

26. The State Government has ensured the supply of construction materials i.e. cement, CGI Sheets, wood and iron bars in sufficient quantities, at concessional rates to the affected persons. The Ministry of Urban Development has trained 376 out of the targeted 450 engineers of the State Government to oversee and provide timely guidance to the affected persons in the construction of their houses.

27. Apart from the above, the State Government has also decided to construct 22,000 Temporary Shelters Units (TSUs) (15,000 in Uri and 7,000 in Tangdhar) for those families whose houses have been fully damaged. Some of these shelters for the hapless families who would not be in a position to erect intermediate shelters before the onset of the winter, are proposed to be constructed by the State Government and Government of India's agencies (i.e. NHPC, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.) while the remaining shelters are being constructed by the affected families themselves for which the State Government has decided to provide assistance of Rs. 30,000. The State

Government has also announced an incentive of Rs.5000/- to those families who are able to construct their TSUs before November 30,2005. Engineers and masons have also been trained for assisting the people in the construction of earthquake proof houses/buildings.

28. The proto type of these houses have been approved by experts from MHA. In the construction of these intermediate shelters, it is proposed to use CGI Sheets, with timber/brick walls and with cemented flooring. The size of each shelter will be 12' x 10'. The Ministry of Home Affairs has procured 8000 MT of CGI sheets from SAIL, the delivery of which has been made to the State Government.

29. As the construction of permanent housing is likely to take sometime, the Ministry of Urban Development has initiated steps to construct Community Halls for the affected people. Each community hall has the capacity to accommodate about 150-200 persons. Construction of such community halls with common toilet and kitchen will cost about Rs.30 lakh per unit. The Ministry of Urban Development has proposed to construct 130 community halls in 130 locations i.e. Uri-66, Tangdhar-38 and Poonch-26. The construction of these community halls has already commenced and 32 community halls (i.e. 22 in Uri and 10 in Tangdhar) have been completed. Construction work is in progress for 25 community halls. The Ministry of Urban Development proposes to complete the construction of all 130 community halls by 15/12/2005.

30. As part of the overall rehabilitation effort, various agencies of Government of India have adopted 22 villages for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activity. Within this framework the Army has adopted three villages, Air Force four, BSF four, CRPF one, ITBP one, NHPC six and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. Three villages, in the adopted villages, appropriate action has been initiated by various agencies to construct shelters and provide other amenities to meet the short term and long-term need of the affected persons.

31. The Non Governmental Organization have also rendered support in providing shelter to the earthquake affected persons of J&K. Bhartiya Jain Sangathan (BJS) has donated 870 prefabricated structures which are to be erected in the earthquake affected areas of J&K, particularly in Uri and Tangdhar. The first consignment of 245 pre fabricated structures was delivered to the State Government at Jammu on 12th November, 2005 and has already been transported by the State Government to Tangdhar. The second consignment of 277 pre fabricated structures was delivered at Jammu on 21-11-2005 and the third consignment of the remaining 348 pre fabricated structures will be dispatched to the State Government by 30th November, 2005. These pre fabricated structures will be erected at four locations in Tangdhar and one location in Uri where households were required to be relocated because of their vulnerability to landslides/avalanches.

32. SEEDS, another NGO has offered to construct 400 houses in Poonch by the end of December, 2005.

33. The Ministry of Home affairs is coordinating with various Ministries/Departments/Agencies for convergence of the relief and rehabilitation effort, to ensure timely supply of relief materials to the earthquake affected areas of the State. The Ministry is constantly monitoring the relief and rehabilitation measures with the State Government.

34. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Members that like on previous occasions, there has been an overwhelming response wherein the State Governments, Armed Forces, Central Para Military Forces, Corporate Sector and various agencies of the Government and the public have extended their wholehearted support for the persons affected by the earthquake in Jammu & Kashmir.

35. I would like to assure the August House that Government of India would extend all possible help to the Government of Jammu & Kashmir for rehabilitation of the earthquake affected persons. I would also seek the valuable suggestions of the Hon. Members thereon.

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12.31 hrs.

