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Title: The Minister of Defence made a statement regarding Government of India's response and measures for relief and reconstruction in the wake of the natural disaster in Uttarakhand.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): Madam, I rise to submit a statement on the response measures taken in the wake of the natural disaster in the state of Uttarakhand in June, due to heavy rainfall, cloudbursts and floods. ...(*Interruptions*) Uttarakhand received rainfall of 385.1 mm during the period from 1st June to 18th June 2013, against the normal rainfall of 71.3 mm, which was in excess by 444%. The period from 16th-18th June in particular witnessed extremely heavy rains. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats. The Minister is making a statement on Uttarakhand. It is not proper that you should be here. On this occasion, you please go back to your seats. It is about Uttarakhand.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats; you know what a tragedy had taken place there. You have to go back. You have to go back before the hon. Minister makes the statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: No. Please go back. It is on Uttarakhand disaster, you may please go back to your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go back. It is a statement on Uttarakhand.

...(*Interruptions*)

12.10 hrs

At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary went back to his seat.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, he has gone back. Now, you may also please go back. It is a statement on Uttarakhand.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: No. You may please go back – the statement is on Uttarakhand.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: No. You may please go back.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: No. It is such a big tragedy that had taken place. Please show some concern for it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: No. Please go back – this is on Uttarakhand. Please show some respect; please show some respect for all those who have died in Uttarakhand; please show some respect and go back to your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: No. Please show some respect. Please go back.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: No. Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions) â€˜**

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go back; please go back.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: Please go back – it is on Uttarakhand.

12.12 hrs

*At this stage, Shri K. Narayan Rao and some other hon. Members
went back to their seats.*

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, hon. Minister to continue the statement.

SHRI A.K. ANTONY: It was a disaster of unprecedented magnitude in Uttarakhand. The State Government immediately initiated necessary steps for rescue and relief, as the first responder.

The Government of India also promptly mobilized all Central Ministries and agencies. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was asked on 16th June to move their teams urgently to Uttarakhand to augment their existing deployment in the State. Indian Air Force (IAF), Indian Army, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Border Roads Organization (BRO), Armed Forces Medical Services and other Ministries provided prompt support to the State Government in their efforts. National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) on a continued basis coordinated efforts of all the central agencies in concert with the State Government, ensuring necessary relief and assistance for immediate rescue operations and restoration of communications in the State.

The Prime Minister visited Uttarakhand on 19th June to take stock of the situation. He announced assistance of Rs. 1000 crore to the State. Home Minister visited the State on 22nd and 28th June 2013 and reviewed the progress with the Chief Minister. The Government of India tasked a Member of NDMA to co-ordinate closely with all concerned in the field.

1.1 lakh persons were evacuated to safe places in the shortest possible time, notwithstanding widespread destruction of roads, difficult terrain and extremely hostile weather. The scale and magnitude of the extreme event was such that, more than 580 persons are confirmed to have lost their lives. Besides, another 5474 persons who are still missing and feared to be no more.

I would like to inform this august House that our Armed Forces made an invaluable contribution in the search and rescue operation. The IAF rescued 23,775 persons, by deploying over 45 helicopters for the operation, and carried out close to 3470 sorties. The Indian Army rescued 38,750 persons, with deployment of about 8,000 personnel, 150 Special Forces and 12 helicopters. During the rescue operations, five personnel of IAF, along with nine personnel of NDRF and six of ITBP even lost their lives in a tragic helicopter crash. I am sure this House will join me in paying tribute to their role and contribution, as also to the two civilian helicopter pilots who perished in the course of rescue operations. Indeed, the region will long remember the heroic commitment and courage displayed by our Armed Forces and police forces, as also a large number of civilian officials, residents and tourists who pitched in the effort.

NDRF deployed 14 teams for the operation and rescued 9,500 persons. ITBP deployed 1,200 personnel for the operation and rescued 33,000 persons. Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi formed 5 rescue teams of 20 instructors and local youth and evacuated more than 6,500 stranded persons. Essential supplies like food, drinking water, medicines, kerosene oil, blankets etc. were continuously provided by airdropping as well as by land routes. More than 1,710 roads have been temporarily restored by BRO and the Public Works Department of the State Government. Power supply of 3,700 villages has been restored temporarily. About 1,670 drinking water schemes have been restored temporarily. Immediate point to point communication by telephone was established at Kedarnath, Badrinath, Barkot and Harshil. More than 100 satellite phones were made available to various Central and State agencies. The Government of India supplemented the State Government's efforts with 80 doctors, 11 psychiatrists and 5 public health teams, along with required equipment.

Highly commendable work was done by the State Government and all the central Ministries and Agencies in this long hour of crisis.

The Government of India has released about Rs. 400 crore for relief and immediate restoration measures. A Central team has visited Uttarakhand for making assessment of the losses caused. Additional funds will be released by the Government of India depending on the requirement of the State.

In view of the magnitude of the crisis, the Government of India has constituted a Cabinet Committee under the

Chairmanship of Prime Minister, for providing broad guidance for expeditious reconstruction and rehabilitation. An Inter Ministerial Group (IMG) has also been set up for drawing up a time bound Action Plan for the purpose.

I would like to conclude by assuring this House that we shall continue to support the State Government for long term rehabilitation and reconstruction and to ensure that the State, in the wake of this calamity, is better equipped to handle such crises....(*Interruptions*)

(Also placed in Library, see No.LT 9268/15/13)

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार (कौशाम्बी): अध्यक्ष महोदया, इस पर चर्चा कराई जाए...(*व्यवधान*) उत्तराखण्ड के बारे में डिस्कशन होना चाहिए...(*व्यवधान*)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Madam, the Government has no hesitation in accepting a discussion on this subject....(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*) ❌ *

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, there should be a discussion on this subject....(*Interruptions*)

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12.21 hrs

At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary, Shri M. Venugopala Reddy and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, after the hon. Minister has made a *suo motu* statement, it is the convention of the House that no clarificatory questions are allowed on it. Therefore, I am not allowing any clarificatory questions. But it has already been agreed that there would be a discussion on the matter and that would be the very first discussion, the very first discussion would be on this matter. It has been agreed. So, hon. Members may express their views when the issue comes up for discussion in the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

12.22 hrs

At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary went back to his seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Zero Hour. I have received a notice for Adjournment given by Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.