

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. - *9
ANSWERED ON 02/02/2023

SUBSIDENCE OF LAND IN JOSHIMATH

9 #SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of Earth Sciences be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of heavy construction works carried out and the extant parameters in Joshimath during the last three years, the details of violations of related parameters and action taken thereon;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Mishra Committee had recommended a ban on heavy construction work in this area;
- (c) if so, the steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations, the year-wise details thereof; and
- (d) the number of people affected and rehabilitated so far due to land subsidence, the details thereof?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER FOR STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

(a)to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. *9 REGARDING 'SUBSIDENCE OF LAND IN
JOSHIMATH' FOR ANSWER ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 02, 2023**

- (a) to (d) As per National policy on Disaster Management, the primary responsibility of disaster management including disbursal of relief and the rehabilitation of the people affected due to disaster rests with the State Government concerned. The Central Government provides necessary financial and logistics support as per established procedure. As per information provided by the State Government of Uttarakhand, Joshimath is located on a thick cover of very old landslides material. Large boulders of gneiss and fragments of basic schist rocks are observed to be embedded in grey colored silty sandy matrix. The region has been witnessing gradual subsidence. This was also reported by a Committee set up under Shri Mahesh Chandra Mishra in 1976. The said report suggested that heavy construction should be allowed only after examining the load bearing capacity of the ground condition. Moreover, geology of many locations in Himalayan region is unstable and dynamic and environment clearance is mandatory, before any major construction project is taken up.

Recently, the land subsidence incidents were reported at various places around Joshimath in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand. After the incidence, all construction activities have been stayed by the State Government in the entire Joshimath area, including Tapovan-Vishnugad power project and Helong Marwari By-Pass Road. The situation is continuously monitored on 24X7 basis at various levels in the State and Central Government. Further, the Central Government and State Government are working in close coordination with all the agencies concerned to mitigate the effect of land subsidence in Joshimath area.

Due to land-subsidence, many structures have been reported to have moderate to major damages. As reported by the State Government, cracks have been observed in 863 buildings and after taking into consideration safety of people, 296 families with 995 members have been shifted to safer places. The State Government has issued orders for payment of Rs. 1,00,000 as an advance for rehabilitation and Rs. 50,000 as displacement allowance to each affected family and for this purpose, Rs. 45 crores have been released. As on 30.01.2023, a total of 235 affected families have been distributed Rs. 3.50 Crores as relief assistance. State Government has arranged temporary accommodation for the affected families, for which Rs 950 per room per day and for meals Rs. 450 per person is being provided. Those not availing these temporary accommodation, an allowance of Rs. 5,000 per month is being provided to affected families for 6 months. Free medical check-ups and free medicines are also provided to the affected people in the relief camps. Further, all possible efforts have been taken for relief and rehabilitation in close coordination with the State Government.
