

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. - 29
ANSWERED ON 02/02/2023

SUBSIDENCE OF LAND IN JOSHIMATH

29. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has set up any group of experts to study the cause that led to the subsidence of land in Joshimath town of the State of Uttarakhand;
- (b) if so, the mandate of the group;
- (c) whether Government has any reports on land subsidence from any other parts of the Himalayan Region;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any steps have been taken to prevent a calamity; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (f) As per National policy on Disaster Management, the primary responsibility of disaster management rests with the State Government concerned. The Central Government, wherever required, supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing logistic and financial support as per established procedure.

There are institutional mechanisms at the National, State and District level in the country viz. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) & District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) respectively to develop appropriate preparedness, coordination and prompt response mechanism for effective management of natural disasters.

Many parts of the Himalayas have unstable and dynamic geology, which may lead to land subsidence and landslides. Geological Survey of India has prepared landslide maps of these areas.

The State Government of Uttarakhand has assigned different tasks to experts from various research institutions i.e. (i) National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), Hyderabad, (ii) Geological Survey of India (GSI), Kolkata, (iii) Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Dehradun, (iv) National Institutes of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee, (v) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Faridabad, (vi) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, (vii) Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), Dehradun, and (viii) Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is also providing them technical guidance.

The mandate of this group of experts is to undertake an immediate assessment of the situation and the associated damage and study the causes and contributory factors.

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.
