

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1186**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH DECEMBER 2023/ AGRAHAYANA, 22, 1945
(SAKA)**

CONNECTIVITY IN REMOTE AREAS OF UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

1186 # SHRI SAMIR ORAON:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether connectivity of remote areas of Union Territory of Ladakh to its headquarters is available during winters; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to keep these areas connected to the headquarters during winters?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a):The areas within Ladakh remain connected with the Headquarters during winters except some instances when there is heavy snow fall.

(b): The Union Territory(UT) of Ladakh has taken several steps to keep all the remote areas connected to the Headquarters during winters, such as

- i. The Public Works Department has been equipped with all required machineries like snow clearance machines, hydraulic cranes, recovery vehicles, workshop vans.**
- ii. Adequate manpower has been provided in both the Districts of Leh and Kargil for snow clearance.**

- iii. 140 machines have been procured for snow clearance.**
- iv. An agency has also been hired for deployment of private machines in snow clearance as and when required.**
- v. The roads maintained by Border Roads Organization (BRO), are being kept open by BRO during winters.**
- vi. Due to prompt snow clearance, the Kargil–Zaskar road was closed only for 23 days in 2022-23 as compared to 154 days in 2019-20 and the Zozila road was closed for 70 days only in 2022-23 as compared to 127 days in 2019-20.**
- vii. 114 Km new roads and 22 new bridges have been constructed in rural areas to improve the connectivity since 2019.**
- viii. 30 helipads have been constructed since 2019 for operation of helicopters.**
