GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 569
ANSWERED ON -07/02/2024

SILKYARA TUNNEL COLLAPSE

569. SHRI JAYANT CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

be pleased to state:

(a) the details of aftermath of the Silkyara accident, including injuries or fatalities so far;

(b) whether the same part of the tunnel had earlier collapsed in 2019, if so, whether a feasibility report was prepared before beginning;

(c) whether there is a rule mandating provision of building escape routes in long tunnel projects to facilitate rescue work in case of any emergency;

(d) whether any Expert Committee has been constituted to investigate the causes of the accident, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government would abandon the project or re-evaluate in view of the weak rock base?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a)   Rescue operation for the entrapped workmen has been completed safely. There was no injuries or fatalities. An investigation/Expert Committee has been constituted for investigation of Silkyara Tunnel Collapse.

(b) There was no collapse/cavity formation in same part of tunnel in 2019.

(c) As per IRC: SP:91-2019 (Guidelines for road tunnels), a separate service tunnel adjacent to the traffic tunnels could be considered at design stage considering various factors like land availability, traffic volume, length of tunnel and additional cost. This additional tunnel provides access for maintenance without requiring tunnel closure. This service tunnel can be used as escape passage during an emergency.

(d) & (e)   An Expert Committee consisting of experts from BRO, Ministry of Railways, MoRTH, and premier academic institutions has been constituted for investigation of Silkyara tunnel collapse. The Committee has visited the site and submitted a preliminary report and accordingly instructions have been issued to concerned to take necessary action to restart the project with necessary safeguards.

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