GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1493

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12^{TH} DECEMBER, 2023/ AGRAHAYANA 21, 1945 (SAKA)

SPECIAL RELIEF PACKAGE FOR HIMACHAL PRADESH

1493. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has received a request for special relief package from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the State from one of the worst disasters witnessed so far during this monsoon;
- (b) if so, the details of adequate assistance/relief provided so far by the Union Government after the disaster and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government is having any time bound plan to provide special package to the State; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): As per the National Disaster Management Policy, the primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the State Governments concerned. The State Governments provide relief assistance to the affected people in the event of notified natural disasters, from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at its disposal, in accordance with approved items and norms of Government of India (GOI).

However, in the event of disaster of a severe nature, additional financial assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure, which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT).

A request has been received from the State Government seeking a special relief package. In order to support the affected people of the State, the Central Government has released both the installments of central share of SDRF, amounting to Rs. 180.40 crore each to State, for immediate relief operations. In addition, an amount of Rs. 200.00 crore, has also been released on an 'on account' basis from NDRF to the State Government on 21st August 2023. Besides, as reported by State Accountant General, an amount of Rs. 71.51 crore is available in SDRF account of Himachal Pradesh as on 1st April 2023 for management of relief necessitated by notified natural disasters including flash flood/ flood, cloudburst, landslides in the affected areas during 2023.

Further, even before the receipt of the memorandum from the State Government of Himachal Pradesh, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visited the state on 19-21st July 2023. After the submission of memorandum from the State Government, IMCT visited on 28-30 September 2023 for on the spot assessment of the damages caused

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due to flood, landslides, cloudburst of 2023. The report of IMCT is placed before the Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC)/ High Level Committee for consideration and approval of quantum of assistance from NDRF, as per the established procedure.

Further, as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, for recovery and reconstruction in the aftermath of severe disaster during the south-west monsoon this year, the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has carried out Post Disaster Need Assessment (PDNA) under the technical guidance of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and submitted the same to the Central Government.
