

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3151
ANSWERED ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2023**

SAFETY AUDIT OF TUNNELS

3151. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to audit the safety of various National Highways Projects having a tunnel passing through mountain ranges and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the number of such National Highways where safety audit is required; and**
- (c) the details of various agencies involved in the rescue of 41 stranded labourers in the tunnel in Uttarkashi District of Uttarakhand and the expenses incurred during the rescue operation?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (b) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has recently taken up review of 39 tunnels in 26 projects on 14 National Highways (NHs) in

which review of 17 tunnel projects have been completed and that of 05 tunnel projects is scheduled to be completed by December, 2023. Construction work of 04 tunnel projects has not yet been commenced.

(c) Various agencies involved during the rescue operation at Silkyara tunnel site on Dharasu – Yumunotri highway (NH-134) are National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL), SJVNL (formerly known as Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), THDC India Limited (formerly known as Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Indian Army, Indian Air force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) of Uttarakhand State, Geological Survey of India (GSI), various agencies of Government of Uttarakhand etc. Till now, NHIDCL has not yet received demand regarding expenses incurred by aforesaid agencies during the rescue operation.
