

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 741
ANSWERED ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2023

COLLAPSED TUNNEL

741. SHRI SUBBARAYAN K:
DR. T. R. PAARIVENDHAR:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री

be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether it is true that around 40 labourers trapped under collapsed tunnel which is under construction between Silkyara and Dandalgaon on the Brahmakhal-Yamunotri national highway in Uttarkashi district on November 14, 2023 and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) The action/steps taken by the Union Government to rescue 40 labourers trapped under the said tunnel;**
- (c) whether the Government has any proposal to use any alternative measures/techniques for tunnel construction to avoid such disorders in future, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the accident regarding alleged negligence by the company executing the project; and**
- (e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) Yes, Sir. On 12th November 2023 at around 05:30 AM, a collapse occurred in the under-construction tunnel from Silkyara to Barkot, wherein debris fell in around 60 mtr. stretch near the Silkyara portal entrance and 41 workers were trapped inside the tunnel.**
- (b) Rescue operation taken as per National Disaster Management Framework. In a 'whole of Govt.' approach where Central Govt., State Govt., Defence and various PSUs/Private agencies including foreign**

experts were involved and assigned specific responsibilities in a synchronised and co-ordinated manner and was closely monitored at the highest level of the Govt.

Govt. ensured regular supply of oxygen, power, communication, food items, water and essential items like toothpaste, toothbrush, undergarments, towels, socks, woollen inners, etc to the stranded workers during the operation. Regular medical advice for food, nutrition, medicines and Psychiatric consultation was also provided to the stranded workers. All the 41 workers were safely rescued on 28.11.2023.

(c) to (e) Govt. has constituted an Expert Enquiry Committee to investigate the causes of the incident.
