

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2739
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

Impact of Kedarnath Yatra on Environment

2739: SHRI TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the problems of environmental degradation deforestation, loss of biodiversity and increase in garbage in Kedarnath area due to annual pilgrimage;
- (b) if so, the specific measures taken by the Government to mitigate the adverse impacts on environment and to ensure ecological stability of the area;
- (c) whether there is any scheme to regulate the number of pilgrims according to the carrying capacity of the area, if so, the details, thereof; and
- (d) whether any collaboration has been made with environmental organizations experts in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d): The Government of Uttarakhand in coordination with Central Government has taken measures on issues related to environment along the pilgrim tracks of Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib, Yamunotri and Gomukh pilgrimage centres. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been developed for registration of tourist, equines, vehicles, law & order, sanitation, health and other general administration. The State Government has also taken measures inter alia for limiting number of vehicles, restricting number of tourists especially during the peak season, restricting number of mules and equines based on carrying capacity study, planning infrastructure for waste management, demarcation of areas where activities incompatible with environment are prohibited / regulated, discouraging use of food and products packaged in plastics, encouraging depositing of wastes at designated places, monitoring mechanism

The local authorities and village panchayats are mandated to undertake solid waste and plastic waste management as per Solid Waste Management Rules and Plastic Waste Management Rules. The State Pollution Control Board is mandated to enforce provisions of these rules. Under the Solid Waste Management and Plastic Waste Management Rules, state level committees also monitor implementation of rules. Additional central assistance is also provided under Swachh Bharat Mission for solid waste management including plastic waste management in urban and rural areas, as per scheme guidelines. Various manuals, advisories and guidelines have been brought out covering various aspects of solid waste and plastic waste management in consultation with experts.
