

Ministry of Home Affairs
Disaster Management Division
(National Emergency Response Centre)

Brief on the Glacial Outburst at Reni in Chamoli District Uttarakhand as on 12.02.2021
up to 1900 hrs

1. Details of incident :-

On 07.02.2021 at about 1000 hours an avalanche has occurred in the upper catchment of Rishiganga river, a tributary of Alaknanda river in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand, which led to sudden rise in the water level of Rishiganga River. Due to flash flood on account of rising of water levels in the river Rishiganga, a functional Rishiganga small hydro project of 13.2 MW was washed away. The flash flood also affected the under construction 520 MW NTPC Hydro Power Project downstream at Tapovan on the river Dhauli Ganga.

2. Initial Damage reported :-

As per information received from Government of Uttarakhand, out of total 206 missing persons dead bodies of 38 persons have been recovered so far, 02 persons have been found alive at their house and 166 persons are still missing and 06 persons got injured. The State Government has gathered this information from different sources and this may be change.

12 persons from NTPC project have been rescued, who were trapped in a tunnel. State Government has announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 4 lakh each for the next of kin of those who have lost their lives due to the incident.

3. Current Situation:-

- I. The search & rescue operation is still under way at Tapowan, Raini and Lata village area. The teams continued the boring/drilling operation inside the tunnel.
- II. An artificial lake has been formed in the upper ridg of Rishiganga River
- III. Approximately 25–35 persons are suspected to have been trapped in tunnel of NTPC project. Rescue operation to evacuate these persons is being carried out on war footing and all efforts are being made to searching the missing persons.
- IV. NDRF is using special drones to take stock of the inaccessible area inside the tunnel and reach the rescue area of the people likely to be stranded.
- V. Aerial survey carried out today by Five DRDO, four IIRS Scientists and two combat Robotic Scientists.
- VI. The work of drilling through machine from intake tunnel to silt flushing Tunnel is going on.
- VII. An alarm and Hooter system has been installed and made operational for early warning system.

4. Steps taken by Central Government:

- i. Situation is being monitored on 24x7 basis by Central Government at the highest level. Hon'ble Prime Minister himself is monitoring the situation closely.
- ii. Both Control Rooms of Ministry of Home Affairs are monitoring the situation 24X7 and all possible help is being provided to the State.

iii. A meeting was chaired by Union Home Secretary on 11.02.2021 to review the progress of search & rescue operation being carried out in Chamoli district to trace the missing persons and also to review the situation arising due to formation of artificial lake in upper ridges. This meeting was attended by the senior Officers of the Ministry of Power, NDMA, DRDO, IDS (CISC), NTRO, State Government Uttarakhand, ITBP, NDRF, NRSC and NTPC. During this meeting Union Home Secretary assured that all necessary assistance will be extended to State Government of Uttarkhand by all concerned Central Government Agencies/department.

iv. Deployment of Manpower and Resources by Central Government

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| a) | NDRF | 05 Teams with all necessary rescue relief equipment and team of dog squad |
| b) | ITBP | 425 personnel are Standby |
| c) | SSB | 01 Team |
| d) | Army | 08 Teams including 01 ETF, 02 Medical teams and 02 JCB |
| e) | Navy | 01 Deep diving team |
| f) | Air Force | 02 Cheetah Helicopters |
| g) | DRDO | 01 Team |
| j) | BRO | 02 JCB, 01 Wheel Loader, 02 Hydro Excavators (20T/30T) |

5. Meeting of National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC):-

On 07.02.2021 at 1630 hours a meeting of NCMC under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary was held, wherein all the concerned agencies were directed to work in close coordination and to extend all requisite assistance to the State administration.

6. Steps taken by State Government: -

The district administration, police and disaster management departments of State Government along with all central agencies have been working for rescue and relief work. 02 teams of SDRF have been deployed. 07 Medical teams with 08 ambulances of State Health Department along with Chief Medical Officer have been deployed. Out of 13 villages Electricity has been restored in 11 villages and Water supply has been restored in 10 villages out of 11. Restoration work of 05 completely damaged Bridges has been initiated by PWD and BRO.

7. Status of State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF): -

For the financial year 2020-21, Rs 1041.00 crore has been allocated to the State of Uttarakhand under the State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF). The both installment of the Central share amounting Rs. 937 Crore have been released to the State Government.
