

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

Brief on the Glacial Outburst at Reni in Chamoli District Uttarakhand as on 16.02.2021
up to 1830 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 204 missing persons dead bodies of 58 persons (including 11 dead bodies from Tapowan Tunnel) have been recovered so far and 146 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. 03 dead bodies recovered today from Tapowan Tunnel.
- II. The search & rescue operation is going on at Raini and Lata village area and NTPC project Tapowan, by NDRF, SDRF and local administration.
- III. An artificial lake has been formed in the upper ridg of Rishiganga River a slight leakage of water seen and being closely monitor
- IV. The aerial survey of artificial lake was carried out by Five DRDO, four IIRS Scientists and two combat Robotic Scientists .
- V. As per the report of DRDO the shape and size of the dam of the artificial lake indicates that it is quite stable and may not fail, provided water level in the lake does not rise.
- VI. Drag flow pump and Hag loader reached at incident site for clearing of muck.
- VII. Intercom communication established inside the tunnel.
- VIII. Satellite communication system established between rescue site and control room at Raini village for surveillance of river water level
- IX. An alarm and Hooter system has been installed and made operational for early warning system.
- X. Medical camp and Public Information Centre are operational.
- XI. Situation is being reviewed continuously. Over 325 NTPC officers/engineers deployed at rescue site for co-ordination and managing rescue operation.
- XII. Sludge removal/de-watering continuing at rescue site.

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

a)	NDRF	05 Teams with all necessary rescue relief equipment and team of dog squad
b)	ITBP	Standby
c)	SSB	01 Team
d)	Army	Standby
e)	Navy	Standby
f)	Air Force	07 Helicopters
g)	DRDO	01 Team
j)	BRO	03 JCB, 01 Wheel Loader, 02 Hydro Excavators (20T/30T)

- v. 05 Helicopters of Indian Air force have been made available at Jolly Grant Airport Dehradun and 02 Helicopter have made available Joshimath to assist the state government.

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. 06 Medical teams with 10 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 12 villages out of 13. Restoration work of 06 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.
