

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

07.02.2021 1930 Hrs

Brief on the Glacial Outburst at Reni in Chamoli District Uttarakhand

1. Details of incident: -

Today at about 1000 hrs an avalanche has happened near Raini Village, Tapovan which has led to sudden rise in the water level of Rishiganga River, a tributary of Dhauliganga. The glacial burst led to the rising of water levels in the river Rishiganga, which washed away the Rishiganga small hydro project of 13.2 MW. The flash flood also affected the downstream hydro project (520 MW NTPC Hydro Power) at Tapovan on the river Dhauliganga, which is a tributary of the river Alaknanda.

It also led to floods in Dhauri Ganga, at Reni village near the Dhauri Ganga river in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. The incident site is approx. 20 KM North East from Joshimath.

State Government of Uttarakhand has reported that there is no danger of downstream flooding and the rise in water level has been contained. There is also no threat to the neighbouring villages. At the same time, the concerned agencies of the Centre and the State have been asked to keep a strict vigil on the situation, and a team from DRDO, which monitors avalanches, is being flown in for surveillance and reconnaissance.

CMD, NTPC has been asked to reach the affected site immediately.

2. Initial Damage reported: -

As reported by SEOC, Uttarakhand, 05 persons have died and 06 persons have been injured so far. 32 personnel of Rishi Ganga project are reportedly missing including 25 workers, 05 villagers and two security

guards. 198 workers of NTPC Hydro Project were also reported missing, out of which 12 persons trapped in the tunnel near the incident site have been rescued by ITBP personnel. Rescue operation to evacuate 35 persons trapped in another tunnel is still going on.

3. Steps taken by Central Government:

- i. Situation is being monitored 24x7 by Central Government at the highest level.
- ii. **ITBP:** 250 personnel of ITBP with all necessary equipment have been deployed at both the incident sites. ITBP has set up their Control Room in Uttarakhand.
- iii. 02 NDRF teams are enroute. 03 NDRF teams have been Airlifted from Hindon.
- iv. All the staff of the Central Water Commission deployed in Alaknanda and Ganga Basin up to Haridwar are on alert .
- v. Five teams of Indian Army, including one ETF, are deployed at the incident site. One Medical column with two ambulances are also deployed. Team of Snow & Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) & DRDO being flown in to the site. One diving team of Indian Navy being airlifted from Hindon Air Force Station. 04 Helicopters of Indian Air Force are also deployed. Control Room established at Joshimath.
- vi. One team of SSB is enroute to the site.

4. Meeting of National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)

Today at 1630 hrs Cabinet Secretariat chaired a meeting of NCMC to take stock of the situation. Cabinet Secretary directed the concerned agencies to work in close coordination and to extend all requisite assistance to the State administration. He emphasized the need to account for all missing persons and ensure that those trapped in the tunnel are rescued at the earliest. He directed that surveillance should

be maintained till rescue efforts are completed and the situation returns to normalcy.

5. Steps taken by State Government:-

The district administration, police and disaster management departments have been directed to deal with the situation. Rescue workers have reached the village, which is situated in the Joshimath area of Chamoli district. 02 teams of SDRF have been deployed.

6. SDRMF:-

First installment Released- **Rs 468.50 crores.**

Allocation for the year 2020-21 -Rs 1041.00 crores.
