

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4602
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28th March, 2025

AVALANCHE IN BRO CAMP

4602. SHRI DHAIRYASHEEL SAMBHAJIRAO MANE:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI CHAVAN RAVINDRA VASANTRAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a massive avalanche has hit a Border Road Organisation (BRO) camp near Mana village, Chamoli district in Uttarakhand recently and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of BRO labourers killed/injured/missing in the said incident;
- (c) whether the Government has sent any Central team/rescue team to the affected site to assess the loss of life due to the said incident and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has provided/announced any financial assistance to the dependents of affected labourers of BRO and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the preventive measures taken/being taken by the Government to prevent such type of incidents in future?

A N S W E R

MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

(SHRI SANJAY SETH)

- (a): Yes, Sir. A massive avalanche occurred near the camp area of EPC Contractor i.e M/s S&P VCIPL JV (working agency with BRO) in Mana village, Chamoli district, Uttarakhand in the early hours of the intervening night of 27th & 28th February 2025. The camp was located approximately 4 km North of the Badrinath Shrine at chainage 0.100 km on the Mana-Mana Pass road.
- (b): BRO has informed that out of 54 personnel/labourers present in the camp, 46 (including injured) labourers were safely rescued/recovered. Unfortunately, eight labourers have lost their lives.
- (c): Yes, Sir. Apart from Indian Army troops at Joshimath responding as the first responders, a joint rescue team comprising personnel and assets from the Indian Air Force, Army Aviation, BRO, National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and ITBP supported by the state and district administration were immediately deployed with the objective of undertaking search and rescue operations, providing medical aid as well as to assess the extent of damages.

(d): Under the aegis of the State Disaster Relief fund, a compensation of Rs.4 lacs has been disbursed to the families of each of the deceased labourers of the Contractor. Further the district administration is initiating a proposal for payment of relief under the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Also, the deceased will receive insurance amount under the Employee Compensation Policy purchased by the Contractor.

(e): The Government is implementing the following measures to prevent such incidents in future: -

- Conducting regular safety drills for BRO personnel and laborers working in high-risk-zones.
- Coordination with the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and state authorities for timely weather alerts.
- Conduct of safety Audit of all labour camp locations.
- Regular awareness workshops and safety instructions in addition to contingency and safety drills.
