

**REPORT ON THE VISIT OF THE NHRC
TEAM TO THE STATE OF UTTRAKHAND
FROM JULY 15 TO 18, 2013**

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. In the wake of reports of the massive loss of human lives and destruction of property caused by floods and landslides in the State of Uttarakhand on 16th and 17th June 2013, the Commission took suo motu cognizance of the incident on June 24, 2013, and directed its Secretary General to constitute a team for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. Accordingly a team was constituted comprising:

Ms. Kanwaljit Deol, DG (I)

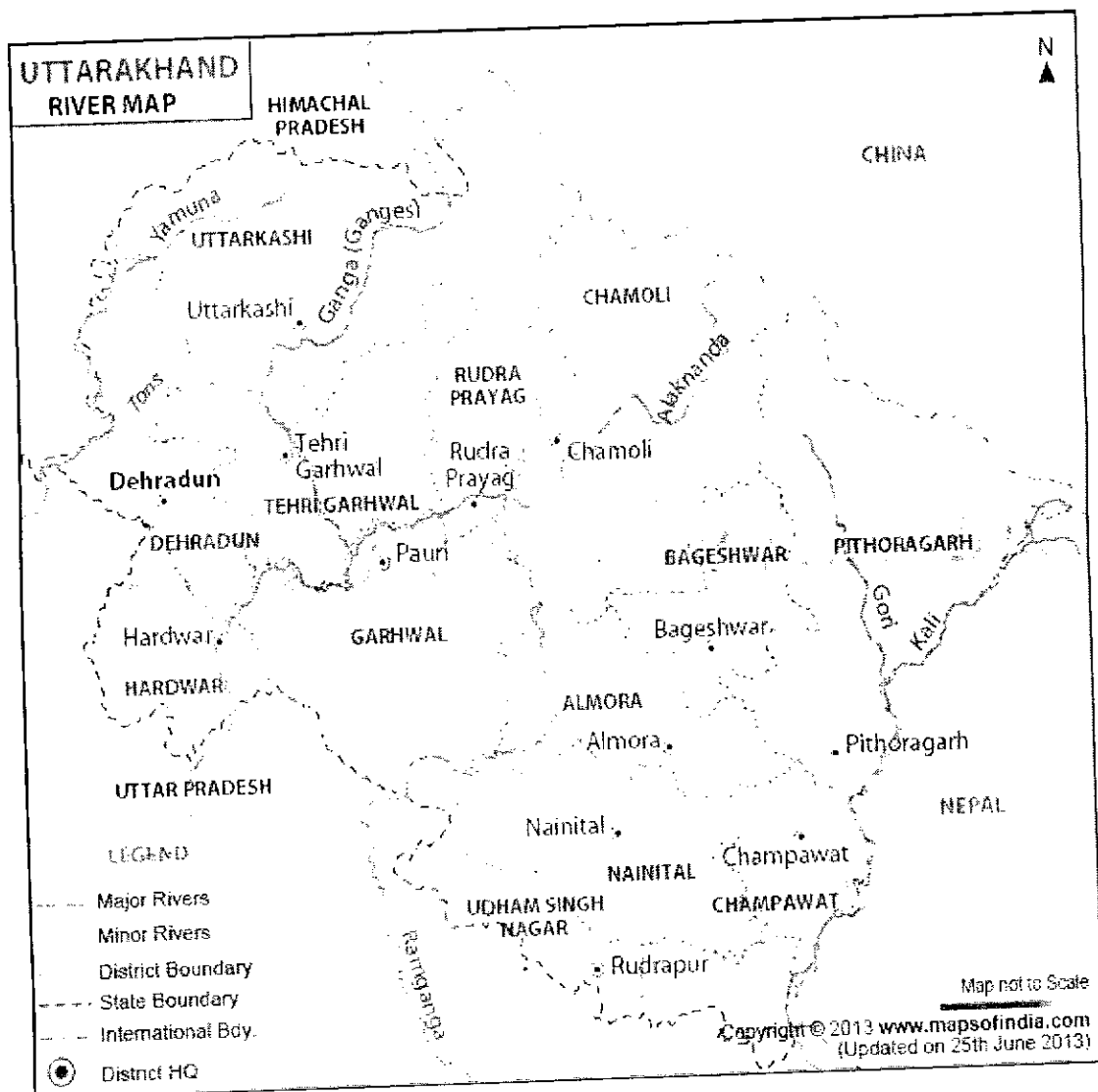
Shri A.K. Garg, Registrar (Law)

Shri A.K. Parashar, Joint Registrar (Law)

- 1.2. The team was directed by the Commission "...to first go to Dehradun to have an assessment of the situation from the functionaries of the State Government. After making such assessment, the team may visit the relief centers and the three most adversely affected districts of the State to study the problems caused by the floods and landslides, and the relief which is required by the affected local people and the steps actually taken for rehabilitation of the people. The team may also enlist the help of NGOs which are active in the area. It will submit its report to the Commission within four weeks."

2. OVERVIEW OF THE DISASTER:

- 2.1 The State's drainage system comprises of the Bhagirathi River Drainage system, Yamuna River Drainage System and Alaknanda River Drainage system in the Garhwal Region, and the Kali River Drainage system, the Pindari River Drainage system, and the Ram Ganga River Drainage system in the Kumaon region of the State.



- 2.2 Flash floods and landslides in all the valleys and areas drained by these rivers and their tributaries on 16th & 17th June 2013 caused large-scale destruction all over the State, particularly in its northern belt. Although the cause of this natural disaster is a subject-matter of study by experts, the calamity seems to have been triggered by heavy snow-fall in the upper reaches accompanied by heavy and incessant rain fall including incidents of cloudbursts, this caused the flow of a huge volume of water along with moraine deposits, rocks and mud into the entire area drained by it. The impact of the flash floods was such that whatever came into its way was swept away in the Kedar valley. There were wide spread landslides in almost all hilly regions of the State, wiping out many

villages and washing away precious agricultural land, roads and other infrastructural facilities .

- 2.3 The Team learnt that factors such as indiscriminate mining and deforestation, haphazard construction of roads and buildings, huge encroachments in the riverbeds with multistory building on river banks and the construction of a series of hydro-electrical projects in an ecologically sensitive area, aggravated the impact of the disaster manifold.

3. MODALITIES ADOPTED BY THE TEAM

- 3.1 In a meeting on 04 July, 2013 (Minutes of meeting, **Annexure 1**), the team decided to co-opt the services of the following three officers:
- (1) Shri Pupul Dutta Prasad, SSP
 - (2) Shri C.S. Mawri, AR (Law), and
 - (3) Shri Jagdish Nautiyal, PS
- 3.2 The issues to be discussed with and the information to be gathered from the officials of the State Government at Dehradun were identified in advance and sent to the State Government (**Annexure 2**).
- 3.3 The Team forwarded its programme to the State Government placed at **Annexure 3**.
- 3.4 Sh. A.K. Garg Registrar could not accompany the team due to health reasons.
- 3.5 A meeting with the NGOs active in the flood-affected area was held in the afternoon of 15 July, 2013 on arrival at Dehradun (suggestions and the points emerged during the meeting placed at **Annexure 4**).
- 3.6 The meeting with the NGO was followed by a meeting with the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand and other functionaries of the State Government on 16th July, 2013 to assess the overall situation in the disaster hit area and the efforts put in by the State for rescue, relief and rehabilitation of the victims. Their responses on the issues forwarded to them by the team on 10 July, 2013 were also received (placed at **Annexure 5**).

- 3.7 On 16.7.2013 and 17.7.2013, the team visited the three worst affected districts of Uttarakhand, namely, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi and Chamoli for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation and the relief measures taken by the State Government. The team also visited two relief camps in Chamoli district. The affected areas and relief camps were identified and visited in consultation with the State Government (the major points noted in the visit are given in **Annexure 6**).
- 3.8 On 18.7.2013, the team held a meeting with the IG, ITBP, Northern Frontier Office in Dehradun to have first hand information about the rescue operation and the scale of the devastation caused by the disaster on 16th and 17th June, 2013.
- 3.9 On the same date it held a concluding meeting with the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand and other functionaries of the State Government.

4. FINDINGS

- 4.1 The rescue of flood-affected victims was a mammoth task. With regard to rescue of pilgrims from outside the State, the administration in association with ITBP, NDRF, Air Force and Army did a commendable job in evacuating nearly 1,10,000 pilgrims from remote and inaccessible places in adverse weather conditions. Stranded local people and livestock, had also been brought to safer places and housed in relief camps situated in different parts of the State. Certain villages which were cut off due to extensive damage to road network, had not yet been fully accessed. Also in some villages where houses had been partially damaged and continued to face grave risks, the local people had not shifted out.
- 4.2 The large number of 1,10,000 people rescued from the heart of the disaster-hit areas, with the possibility of few more pilgrims or tourists still being around the disaster struck areas raises a serious issue of concern. In a fragile ecosystem the presence of such large number of people puts a heavy strain on the resources and plays an aggravating role when a natural calamity strikes. The number of pilgrims/tourists present at a particular point of time in the disaster-prone areas also has a correlation with the rescue and response capacity of the state which

has been shown to be very limited in the present disaster given the nature of the terrain, weather and other factors.

- 4.3 The team found that this was the first time that helicopters were used on such a large scale for rescue and relief work in the State. Civilian helicopters hired by the State also took many risks in operating rescue sorties and the State was able to rescue most of the stranded people by helicopters. However, instances of other States sending their own helicopters for rescuing people from their respective States also came to the notice raising the question of fairness and equitable access to rescue facilities for all survivors.
- 4.4 As reported by the State Government, the number of persons dead is 580. In addition, 5748 persons are reported missing and presumed dead. However, only 192 bodies had been recovered and cremated till 16.7.2013. The team apprehends that many dead bodies buried in the silt in Kedar valley and trapped inside collapsed buildings are yet to be recovered.
- 4.5 The loss of livestock has been estimated to be 14409. It has been admitted by the state authorities that no efforts could be made to dispose of dead bodies of animals. Hence, in addition to human dead bodies, a large number of dead bodies of live-stock are either buried or are in the river beds and hills.
- 4.6 In this scenario, the risk of outbreak of epidemics has not yet abated due to risk of contamination of water bodies and consequent spread of water borne diseases. The Secretary (Health), Govt. of Uttarakhand is satisfied with the feedback he has received from Emergency Medical Response and NCDC (National Centre for Disease Control) but the ground realities suggest that there should not be any complacency with regard to the risk of epidemics.
- 4.7 The DGP, Uttarakhand intimated that as on 11.7.2013, 32 women and 144 children were reported missing from the disaster hit areas and no case of trafficking of women or children was reported from the areas.
- 4.8 The State Government has intimated that 59 villages were washed away by the flash flood and 428 villages were cut off from the rest of the state.

The team observed that many of the villages still cut off have not been accessed by the State/District administration. It was also not clear whether essential relief material had reached them.

- 4.9 The distribution of relief material seems to be efficient only up to or near the road head. Thus, there is over supply in these areas and no means of transportation to remote areas. Distribution in such areas is sometimes being done directly by NGOs with no official of district administration present. It was intimated to the team that some of non-affected people were taking the relief material a number of times and the relief material is also reaching the market.
- 4.10 The State Government intimated that following relief material were sent to the relief camps and disaster hit areas: 85.80qtls wheat, 839.80qtls rice, 21.94qtls sugar, 86.58qtls flour, 39 tins edible oil, 1.98qtls. Salt, 45 boxes biscuits, 3840lts of kerosene oil, 44700 food packets other material, 731 trucks of relief material received from other sources. Efforts were also made to ensure enough stock of food grains in godowns including interior godowns, and food rations for 3 months had been sent to interior godowns and 6920.897 Mt. wheat, 7570.091 Mt. rice, 889.604 Mt. sugar, 994 Kl. Kerosene Oil etc was supplied to disaster hit area through PDS. The assessment whether the relief material actually reached to the people in the disaster hit areas, keeping in view the mass destruction of roads and footpaths, continuous bad weather and factors such as the non availability of funds for transportation and labour, is yet to be made.
- 4.11 It is apprehended that the villagers in the higher reaches and still cut off may have received a very small quantity of the relief material or no relief material at all and some of the villagers where deaths have taken place or only elderly people are the survivors could not have come to the road heads to take the relief material.
- 4.12 The State and district authorities had intimated that there was no dearth of relief material. From the field visit, it was found that the relief material distributed so far had consisted mostly of dry food items. Other basic daily needs like kerosene, edible oil, candles, match boxes, sugar, items specific to women, etc. were mostly found missing.

- 4.13 The state government informed the team that there was scarcity of kerosene. The State Government has requested the Union Government to provide kerosene at PDS price, and not at the market price of Rs. 55 per liter, for the disaster-hit areas. And for the time being the State Government was subsidizing to provide it @ Rs. 15 per liter.
- 4.14 The team was informed that 2070 roads have been damaged out of which 1665 road have been restored. 80 bridges were completely damaged and 145 bridges were partially damaged. 11 SHPs, 41 micro plants, and 3 large hydroelectric plants were affected and 1987 water schemes were damaged (affecting 27.83 lakh people) out of which 1299 could be restored. These figures, as per the state Government, are tentative, and the actual loss of infrastructure due to the flash flood and landslides is yet to be assessed.
- 4.15 The Team was intimated by the state authorities that 233 villages were in the danger zone and hence they require to be relocated. 1205 pucca houses, 93 kachha houses were completely damaged and 2319 houses were partially damaged by the flood or landslides. However, no visible action plan for providing shelters to those who have lost their houses or whose houses are not in living condition was found in place. Even tented accommodation has not been provided. Rented accommodations are either not available in the remote areas or are not accessible at the rate of Rs. 2000 p.m. that the district administration is ready to provide to the homeless by way of rent, for six months. The situation may become very grim on the onset of the winter in two months.
- 4.16 The State Government informed the team that electricity had been restored in almost all the villages in the affected area. However, it has been noted that electricity supply was restored in some of the areas only on 16.7.2013 but the local residents stated that the electricity supply was disconnected after a few hours of its restoration.
- 4.17 Villagers at New Didsari which was visited by the team seem to have been relocated after the earthquake in the year 1991 without any input of the Geological Survey of India and they need to be rehabilitated again. It was further observed that no fuel for cooking dry food had been supplied by the district administration in the village. It was also observed that no sugar or tea was distributed to the villagers. Moreover, the onset

of the winter is near and no visible steps have been taken by the district administration for providing alternate shelters to those whose houses have been washed away and whose houses have been declared dangerous. The bridge connecting the village to Mannari and the High Way was washed away by the flood in 2012 and another foot over bridge was washed away by the flash flood this year therefore the school going kids have to walk on foot approximately 3-4 km one way to their school, hence they no option but to skip school. The team was also informed that some of the villagers had not received compensation for damages to their houses whereas others had received the same.

- 4.18 It has been learnt that about 1308 animals, mostly mules, the life line in these hills and the source of livelihood, were still stranded in District Chamoli and Rudraprayag, with their owners, facing extreme weather conditions and risk of death due to starvation. The State Government intimated that bridges across the rivers were being constructed to retrieve them, but this needs urgency. The Animal Husbandry Department of the State Government has intimated that there was no provision of money for transportation, daily wages of the labourers and the teams sent in the disaster-hit areas.
- 4.19 The relief camps visited by the team at Joshimath were found to be overcrowded, lacking in hygiene and sanitation and basic needs. For example, 98 families from Pulna village were camped in 10 rooms of Gharwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Guest House, making it a very congested arrangement. 34 families from Govindghat and Pandukeshwar and three families from Lambagar housed in Jyotir Tourist Complex were facing the same problem of overcrowding, privacy for women, sanitation, etc. Interaction with women of Govindghat revealed that they were suffering from many anxieties, e.g., how will the school fees for their children studying outside the district be paid and how long would they had to stay in the relief camp. The interim relief of Rs. 2700/- distributed to each family had already been exhausted and they had no permanent source of income in sight. Overall, the mood was very despondent with little prospect of alternative livelihood. Distribution of monetary relief to those who had lost their houses and lands was very slow.
- 4.20 Disaster management and disaster preparedness seems to leave a lot to be desired. District Disaster Management Authorities do not seem to be

actively engaged in the months prior to the beginning of the yatra. Further it has been learnt that the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) is stationed at Rishikesh and Haridwar even during the period of yatra. As a result, their swift intervention in natural calamities which affect the upper region of the State remains difficult. As the State is disaster prone, their stationing and deployment needs to be reviewed so that vulnerable areas are quickly accessed.

- 4.21 The state government has not been able to provide sufficient number of doctors and health personnel especially psychiatrists and psychologists to tackle post traumatic stress in the victims of the flood hit area. NGOs who can take up such tasks need to be pressed into service to make up the deficit.
- 4.22 The team further observed that there was no plan of action for creating immediate livelihood for the affected people and all hope was being pinned on re-starting the Yatra soon.
- 4.23 The State Government has requested the Central Government to help it in tackling the influx of the **'Kanwadias'** coming to the state in this month by deploying more central forces. The state's machinery is already stretched to its limits in meeting the challenges posed by the current tragedy.
- 4.24 The Team observed that there was a lack of coordination among the NGOs and also between the NGOs and the government agencies, leading to lopsided efforts in the relief work. It was observed that in some of the areas a number of the NGOs as well as State Government agencies were reaching to the people whereas in many other areas none of them seemed to be present.
- 4.25 The Team appreciated the efforts of the NGOs, Social Workers and other charitable institutions during the rescue work and later on in the relief work.
- 4.26 The team found that DM and SP of Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi and Chamoli had all been posted only recently, after the disaster. Changing officers in crucial areas in the middle of rescue and relief was rather inexplicable.

5. SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Short term measures:

5.1.A State government may be advised :

- To make all out efforts to reach out the remoter villages not yet accessed by it.
- To make an objective assessment of the articles in the packets of relief material, as per ascertained needs of the people.
- To register and give a certificate to that effect, to the affected families for even distribution of the relief material.
- To have some mechanism in place to coordinate the efforts of NGOs and have coordination between the government and the NGOs.
- To provide adequate safety and security to the vulnerable sections especially children, women and elderly people and ensure protection to such groups from trafficking or other exploitation.
- To provide temporary shelters immediately and alternative semi permanent shelters before the onset of the winter.
- To enhance the meager money paid towards the rent and/or provide suitable rented accommodation to the displaced persons.
- To improve the living conditions in the Relief camps as per the norms and national and international guidelines.
- Identification of the bodies being recovered may be ensured on priority.

- To make serious efforts to retrieve and clear the area of human and animal dead bodies within a time frame and monitor the threat of epidemic closely.
- To rescue the mules and other big or small animals and their owners still stranded in some parts of the State without delay.
- To arrange sufficient number of doctors, experts, psychologists to tackle problems in the disaster hit areas and, where needed, co-opt private institutions and NGOS to provide doctors and psychologists to attend to post traumatic stress among victims of the flood hit areas.

5.1.B Central government may be advised :

- To provide sufficient quantity of kerosene oil to the State at PDS prices, on urgent basis.
- To provide Central Police forces to manage 'Kanwadias' coming to the state, numbering in lakh during the coming month since the State government resources are already stretched in providing relief and conducting rescue.
- To provide sufficient number of experts, Medical specialists, Doctors, Psychologists etc., to the State Government for the disaster hit areas.
- To provide special package for the families who have lost their live-stock which were their livelihood.
- To provide more helicopters to the State Government to reach out to the areas still cut off.

5.2 Medium Term Measures:

5.2.A State government may be advised:

- Though massive construction will be required for rehabilitation, it may be properly planned and no haphazard construction jeopardizing the environmental balance of the area be permitted.
- To consult the locals and the geological experts (GSI) in selecting alternative sites for the villages completely washed away or those that need relocation.
- To make an objective Monetary Relief Policy, clearly stating the monetary compensation to be paid in case of fully damaged, partially damaged and substantially damaged "pucca" house or "kacchha" house and "Goshala"(livestock shelter), so as to prevent any discrimination in the distribution of the relief.
- In addition to giving monetary compensation to the victims for re-constructing their houses, they may be helped and guided by the administration in securing suitable materials etc.
- To plan proper relief and develop alternative livelihood due to stoppage of tourism and Char Dham Yatra for those deprived of their livelihoods.
- To restore road connectivity, bridges, foot paths and tracks in the area within a time frame and to enable schools accessible to all school children.
- To ensure that the river-beds are kept free from any encroachment and that people are properly educated about sound development.
- To register the yatris and regulate the yatra keeping in view the environmental capacity and geological sensitivity of the area.
- To ensure coordination meeting between various agencies responsible for disaster response and mitigation much before the monsoons so that contingency plans are properly worked out, logistics requirements are met, and disaster preparedness is bolstered.

- To desist from transferring the DMs and SPs of the disaster hit areas, at least for a period of one year.

5.2.B Central Government may be advised:

- **To** provide the services of the Central agencies such as BRO, CPWD, NHAI etc. to assist in establishing connectivity in the affected areas.
- **To** provide services of experts in the field of geology, ecology, environment, information technology, engineering etc. to facilitate infrastructural planning and reconstruction.

5.3 Long Term measures:

5.3.A State government may be advised:

- To not to resume the Yatra in haste without proper planning and guarding against unsustainable construction and high risk development. Regulation of tourism and yatra must be based on an analysis of holding capacity of the environment and resources.
- To encourage the development of alternative sources of livelihood such as fruit processing, horticulture and agricultural diversification, sustainable manufacturing etc.
- To safeguard the interests of vulnerable sections such as scheduled castes and tribes and women and children in the relief and rehabilitation.
- To set up a small fleet of helicopters dedicated for relief and rescue operation, suitable for the difficult terrains of the hill districts of the State.
- The alignment of roads only along the river banks is prone to disaster and the state may develop alternative access corridors.

- To review the impact of hydro-electric power projects in ecologically fragile areas.

5.3.B Central Government may be advised:

- To shoulder a bigger responsibility in the rehabilitation and development of the infrastructure keeping in view the scale of disaster and loss of life and infrastructure and provide services of experts in various fields, such as environment, geology, etc.
- To realign National High Ways in the area away from the river banks in the future.
- To review the impact of hydro-electric power projects in ecologically fragile areas.
- To have a fresh look at Eco-sensitive zone Notification, in view of the scale of the recent disaster.

A. K. Parashar 5/8/13
(A.K. PARASHAR)
Joint Registrar

A. K. Garg
(A.K. GARG)
Registrar

K. Deol 5/8
(KANWALJIT DEOL)
Director General (Investigation)

National Human Rights Commission

A meeting of the team was held today i.e. 4.7.2013 in the chamber of DG(I) NHRC. The meeting was attended by Smt. Karwaljit Deol, DG(I), Shri A.K.Garg, Registrar (Law) and Shri A.K.Parasahar, Joint Registrar(Law). It was chaired by DG(I). It was decided that Shri A.K.Parashar, Joint Registrar (Law) shall be the Secretary/Coordinator of the team.

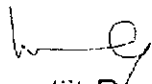
It was decided to requisition the services of the following officers of NHRC.

1. Shri Pupul Dutta Prasad, SSP
2. Shri C.S.Mawri, Asstt. Registrar(Law)
3. Shri Jagdish Nautiyal, P.S.

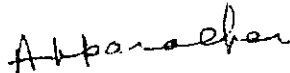
It was further decided that Shri A.K.Parashar, JR (Law) and Shri Pupul Dutta Prasad, SSP shall identify the issues and the information to be gathered from officers of the State government at Dehradun. Such issues shall be finalized by the team. This will be done before proceeding to Dehradun.

It was tentatively decided to visit Dehradun and the affected areas of Uttarakhand from 15.7.2013 to 17.7.2013.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.


(Karwaljit Deol)


(A.K.Garg)


(A.K.Parashar)

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND

A. General Information:-

- i) How many persons lost their lives and how many of them were locals and how many were pilgrims/tourists?
- ii) How many villages were washed away by floods?
- iii) How many houses were destroyed/damaged? Has any survey been made in this regard?
- iv) How many persons are missing?
- v) The number of districts affected by floods?
- vi) The three worst affected districts of the State?
- vii) How many livestock washed away?
- viii) How many children were rendered orphan?
- ix) Whether State has setup relief camp? If so, where and number of inmates per camp?
- x) Whether Helipads are available near the relief camps and the affected villages?
- xi) How many dead bodies have been identified and what steps have been taken for identification of the remaining bodies?

B. Right to Food.

- i) What steps have been taken by the State Government to provide relief to the local inhabitants?
- ii) What steps have been taken to provide access food at reasonable prices?
- iii) How many villages are still inaccessible where no relief materials could be reached so far?

C. Right to shelter

- i) What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken for providing alternative shelter to those who have lost their houses?
- ii) Whether local people are still stranded in some villages which are totally cutoff and whether the State government has taken or proposes to take any steps to evacuate and rehabilitate those people from such villages?
- iii) What steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to relocate the villages which have been washed away by floods?
- iv) What arrangements have been made for meeting the onset of the approaching winters?
- v) Whether clothing with adequate protection against cold and rain has been provided to the victims?

D Right to livelihood.

- i) What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by the government to rehabilitate the locals who could not be attended to during rescue operation of the tourists?
- ii) What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to provide employment to the people who have lost their source of livelihood?
- iii) What assistance the government proposes to give to the farmers in whose fields sand and river bed material is deposited?

E Right to health & sanitation

- i) How many places have been cleared of dead bodies?
- ii) How the bodies of the animals are being disposed of in that area?
- iii) The plan of action for clearing the dead bodies from the towns/villages/jungles or rivers;
- iv) What steps have been taken to prevent a break of epidemics in the area?
- v) How many sanitation teams have been deployed to clear the dead bodies from the above area?
- vi) How many medical teams have been sent to the area?

F Religious and cultural rights

- i) Whether the dead bodies are being disposed of as per the religious rituals of the persons?

G Right to potable water

- i) What steps have been taken for providing drinking water with identified drinking water treatment and restoring drinking water resources.

H Safety and security

- i) What steps have been taken for safety and security of the children, women and elderly from scavengers?
- ii) How many cases of theft, dacoity, rape, kidnapping, etc. were reported after 16th June, 2013 from the area so far?

I. Restoration of infrastructure

- i) The plan of action the State Government has undertaken to connect the areas where roads/footpath/tracks/bridges(small & big) have been washed out by the flash flood.
- ii) What plan of action has been made to clear the debris of the bridges, buildings and the boulders brought by the flooded rivers?

J Rights of vulnerable groups of the society

- i) What steps has been taken to prevent abuse of orphan children, women and the elderly?

K Disaster Management

- i) Is the district disaster management system functional?
- ii) What measures have been taken to prevent such disasters in future?
- iii) What lessons have been learnt from natural disasters in past?

L Monetary Relief.

Monetary relief distributed so far for the various categories of damages as per advertisement of the State Government in the daily "the Pioneer" dated 4.7.2013 (copy enclosed) separately for each category of damages 1 to 18 & other relief heads given in the advertisement.

M

- i) Has the State government made any overall plan for measures to be taken in the short term, medium term and long term?

Annexure - 3

ITINERARY OF THE TEAM OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION TO THE STATE OF UTTARAKHAND

15.7.2013. Dep. New Delhi 0650 hrs. Dehradun Shatabadi
(Monday) (ND Rly. Stn.) (Train no. 12017)

Arr. Dehradun 1240 hrs.

STAYAT DEHRADUN

(Transport/Stay/Security arrangements for the NHRC Team to be made by the State Government)

3.30 PM Meeting with the NGOs
(Invitations to the NGOs & Venue of the meeting to be fixed by the State Government)

STAYAT DEHRADUN

16.7.2013 Forenoon Meeting with the Chief Secretary/DGP/Relief Commissioner
(Tuesday) & other senior officers of the State Government

(Arrangements for meeting to be made by the State Government)

16.7.2013 (Tuesday) Afternoon to 18.7.2013 (Thursday) Forenoon

Visit to the affected areas & Relief Camps for the on-the-spot assessment of the situation and relief measures taken by the State Government.

(Affected areas / Relief Camps to be identified/visited in consultation with the State Government and arrangements for transport/halt/stay/security etc. for the NHRC team to be made by the State Government)

18.7.2013 2.30 PM to 3.30 PM
(Thursday) Winding-up meeting with the State Government

Dep. Dehradun 1700 hrs. Dehradun Shatabadi
(Train no. 12018)

Arr. New Delhi 2245 hrs.
(ND Rly. Stn.)

Annexure-4

MEETING WITH NGOs ON 15.7.2013

On the first day of the visit, the team held a meeting with the NGOs which are active in the flood-affected areas in the afternoon of 15 July, 2013 at Dehradun. 22 representatives of the NGOs were present in the meeting.

The NGOs made a number of suggestions and the following points emerged during the discussion:

- There was a lack of coordination among the NGOs and also between the NGOs and the government agencies. There was a need for inter-agency coordination amongst the NGOs and also a Nodal Officer in the government for coordinating the relief efforts of the NGOs.
- Relief material brought by various NGOs was being dumped in the temporary collection centres situated on the roads.
- Victims had varied needs which were not being met if relief items were supplied indiscriminately. As a result, items according to the needs of the victims were not being categorized, and consequently were not reaching various destinations. A lot of food items were being wasted. There had to be a better targeting of the relief material.
- Small NGOs were being able to take relief items only up to the point where the road connectivity exists, and not beyond

that; because of the cost of transporting, the relief material kept lying there.

- There was an immediate need for providing temporary shelter to those whose houses had been destroyed. Some NGOs were trying to supply tents to the victims. However, it was felt that prefabricated dwellings may be more suited to the climatic conditions.
- Because of the scale of devastation and the magnitude of the tragedy, many victims were showing symptoms of trauma. Post Trauma Stress Disorder (PTSD) was an area of concern which needed to be addressed by psychological counselling and other means.
- There are specific needs of women who have been victims of the tragedy. Relief material received so far did not cater to those needs.
- There were children who had become vulnerable to trafficking and reports suggest that anti-social elements were already on the lookout for trapping such hapless victims.
- Since all the dead bodies had not been disposed of, there was a risk of diseases and epidemics spreading from the lack of sanitation. There was an urgent need to carry out an epidemiological survey to get a clear idea about preventive

and other measures that need to be taken for saving people from life-threatening diseases. Reports suggest that scabies, diarrhea, fever, etc. are already spreading.

- Victims need to be helped in obtaining duplicate copies of documents like land records, pension papers, etc. which they had lost in the floods.
- People in the villages do not have cooking utensils. Therefore, they require to be provided the bare minimum of utensils for cooking. If it was not possible to reach each individual family, utensils can be provided to the Panchayats for community cooking.
- Most of the affected villages had no electricity supply and in many cases alternative sources of energy like kerosene was also not reaching them. Solar lights can be provided to the affected areas.
- Government-run relief camps suffer from very poor sanitary conditions. There is no privacy for women, and protection for women and children.
- To restore livelihood of the people of the flood affected areas, short-term as well as long-term measures need to be taken. In the short-term, villagers should be provided relief material including the basic necessities, and in the long run, there is a need for employment generating units to be step

up. The livestock which is the source of livelihood for the people in the area must be saved from further destruction.

- The following areas were said to have people who are yet to be reached by the relief efforts:

Urgam valley near Joshimath – 600 people

Lalgondi and Labara, Chamoli District (a cluster of 13 villages)

Palna in Joshimath – 98 villages

Lambgarh – 6 families

- It was pointed out that so far relief efforts had been concentrated on areas visited by pilgrims and tourists. There was a need to reach out to other areas equally affected by the disaster like Gwaldam, Dharchula in Pithoragarh area.
- The system of communication which existed in the British period to warn about calamity in the area had withered away with time, and there is no such system existing in these areas now. As a result, there is a question whether the government had managed to establish communication with the block headquarters and villages.
- Relief and rehabilitation measures can be properly structured and made effective only after a survey is carried out to assess the extent of the damage and the need of the victims. Expertise of NGOs can be utilized in this regard.

- The factor which had affected the relief effort the most was the lack of road connectivity and damage to bridges and pathways to far off villages. Therefore, possibility of providing helicopter services to enable well-meaning NGOs to provide their relief material in such areas might be explored.

**ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION WITH REGARD TO NATURAL CALAMITY
TOOK PLACE IN THE STATE OF UTTARAKHAND**

A-Genral Information:-

Q.-I How many persons lost their lives ? How many of these were locals and how many were pilgrims/tourists?

Ans. 580 people lost their lives. This is a tentative figure based on information gathered from various sources. This figure is likely to rise.

Till date, Police have recovered total 192 dead bodies from the affected areas in Uttarakhand. Of these, 63 dead bodies have been identified by their relatives. (39 dead bodies are of people belonging to Uttarakhand.)

Q.-II How many village were washed away by floods?

Ans. As per status report, 59 villages were washed away by floods. This figure is provisional & likely to be changed.

Q.III How many houses were destroyed /damaged? Has any survey has been made in this regard?

Ans. Puckka houses fully damaged - 1205*
Kuchha houses fully damaged - 93*
Kuchha houses partially damaged -2319*

*Figures are provisional & likely to be changed.

Quest.IV How many persons are missing?

Ans. Other states - 4824 *
Uttarakhand - 924*
*Figures are provisional & likely to be changed.

Q.-V The number of Districts affected by floods ?
Ans All 13 Districts in Uttarakhand have been affected by floods.

Q.-VI The three worst affected Districts of the State ?

Ans. 1- Rudraprayag
2- Chamoli
3- Uttarkashi
4- Pithoragarh &
5- Bageshwar

Q.VII **Number of livestock washed away?**

Ans. Big animals – 686 *
 Small animals – 8833*
 *Figures are provisional & likely to be changed.

Q.-VIII **How many children were rendered orphan?**

Ans. The Police department has not yet received any information in this regard.

Q.-IX. **Whether State has setup relief camps? If so, where and number of inmates per camp?**

Ans. Yes, approximately 64 relief camps have been setup

Distt. relief camps	No. of persons
Almora - 06	1680
Pauri - 04	12821
Nainital -02	1201
Haridwar -07	18584
Rudraprayag -15	82825
U.S. Nagar -02	0
Uttarkashi -28	29519
Dehradun - 07	4999
Total - 64	151629

Q.-X. **Whether Helipads are available near the relief camps and the affected villages?**

Ans. Yes, names of districts and no. Of helipads are as follows:

Districts	Helipads
Chamoli	16
Pithoragarh	17
Uttarkashi	14
Rudraprayag	26
Bageshwar	03
Total	76

Q.-XI- How many dead bodies have been identified and what steps have been taken for identification of the remaining bodies?

Ans.

A total 192 dead bodies have been recovered from the affected areas of the state, of which 63 bodies have been identified by the local police. All measures are being adopted for identification of dead bodies as per the guidelines provided in CrPC and Police Regulations. Photographs of the dead bodies and their belongings are being taken regularly and uploaded on the uttarakhand police website and Zipnet as well. The police along with the FSL team is also collecting the DNA samples of these bodies and being properly preserved for future identification.

B-Right to Food:-

Q.-I What steps have been taken by the state Government to provide relief to the local inhabitants?

Ans.

1. To provide immediate relief to stranded pilgrims and tourists, food camps were organised in District Rudraprayag (12), Chamoli (10) and Uttarkashi (03). 85.80 qtls wheat, 839.80 qtls rice, 21.94 qtls sugar, 86.58 qtls pulses, 244.60 qtls flour, 39 tins edible oil, 1.98 qtls salt, 2.40 qtls ghee, 45 boxes of biscuits, 3840 liters kerosene oil have been sent to the relief camps.
2. Food packets and other materials have been sent to Relief camps in Rudraprayag (26,000), Uttarkashi (12000) Chamoli (5000) Pithoragarh (1400) and Bageshwar (300) by helicopter and road.
3. Additionally, from 21-6-2013 to 14.7.2013, 731 Trucks of relief materials received from different sources were sent to Rudraprayag (262 trucks), Chamoli (157 trucks), Uttarkashi (214 trucks), Dehradun (15 trucks), Tehri (02 trucks), Pithoragarh (48), Bageshwar (29 trucks). District Magistrates of affected Districts have been provided with helicopters for air dropping of relief materials.
4. Efforts are on to ensure that sufficient food grains are available at all the godowns in the state including FCI godowns, base godowns and interior godowns so that the Public Distribution System functions adequately. Food rations for the next three months have been sent to the interior godowns and ration shop owners have been instructed to lift advance rations for one month immediately. Food grains are being transported through alternate roads, ponies, porters and by helicopter services where the connectivity to the villages have been completely cut off. Additional transportation cost for sending PDS food grains will be met out of the CM's relief fund.
5. 6920.897 Mt. Wheat, 7570.091 Mt. Rice, 889.604 Mt. Sugar, 994.045 Kl. Kerosene oil etc. have been supplied to the disaster affected areas through PDS.

6. The Uttarakhand Cabinet has taken a decision to provide free food grains for the month of July to disaster affected villages which have been completely cut off, as identified by the District Magistrates. The Cabinet also decided to subsidise 5000 KI of kerosene oil, which was allotted by GoI on market rate of Rs. 55 per Ltr, so that it could be distributed at the PDS at the rate of Rs. 15 per Ltr. in the affected areas. These decisions are being implemented in the 05 disaster affected districts.

Q.-II **What steps have been taken to provide access food at reasonable prices?**

Ans. The State Government is providing food at free of cost for one month in cut off areas.

Q.-III **How many villages are still inaccessible where no relief materials could be reached so far?**

Ans. The State Government is providing relief materials to all disaster affected villages.

C-Right to shelter:-

Q.-I **What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken for providing alternative shelter to those who have lost their houses?**

ANS. People who have lost their houses has been provided rent at the rate of ₹2000/- per month for coming six months.

 The Rural Development Department has requested the Central Govt. for additional allocation under Indira Awas Yojana scheme.

Q.-II- **Whether local people are still stranded in some villages which are totally cutoff and whether the State government has taken or proposes to take any steps to evacuate and rehabilitate those people from such villages?**

Ans. Armed forces and helicopters of the Airforce have been deployed for relief and rescue operations in the State where thousands have been stranded. Stranded local people have also been evacuated to a large extent. If there is any eventuality for evacuation of locals arise the same is being attended promptly.

Q.-III **What steps have been taken or proposed to be taken to relocate the villages which have been washed away by floods?**

Ans. The State's Disaster related Rehabilitation Policy has already been formulated and plan for rehabilitation of identified 233 sensitive villages is being prepared. Since the rehabilitation of 233 villages

would involve huge finances, the State Govt. has requested the Central Govt. to provide necessary finances to ensure timely & sustainable rehabilitation of these villages. One village "Sirobagar" (District Rudraprayag) has been already rehabilitated under this policy.

Q.IV What arrangements have been made for meeting the onset of the approaching winters?

Ans. Presently, a total 64 relief camps have been set up for affected people in different Districts of the State. The Government is extending help of ₹2000/- per month for rental accommodation for a period of six months to all such affected families who have lost their houses.

Q.-V Whether clothing with adequate protection against cold and rain has been provided to the victims?

Ans. Adequate supply of blankets, sleeping bags, tents & clothes are being made available as a measure of immediate relief in the affected areas.

D-Right to livelihood:-

Q.-I What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken by the government to rehabilitate the locals who could not be attended to during rescue operations of the tourists?

Ans.

- Measures have been taken to provide livelihood to local by providing of relief of ₹2500/- per cattle shed damaged in disaster.
- For de-silting of agricultural land relief is being provided at the rate of ₹15000/- per hectare.
- For loss of land caused by landslide, avalanche, change of course of river relief of ₹2500/- per nali for hills and ₹1.00 lakh per hectare for plains is being provided.
- Agriculture input subsidy where crop loss is 50% and above relief for rainfed areas at the rate of ₹5000/- per hectare & for irrigated areas at the rate of ₹8000/- per hectare is being provided.
- Input subsidy of ₹15000/- per hectare for perennial crops where losses 50% and above, is being provided.
- For the replacement of milch animals (buffalo, cow, camel, yak) relief at the rate of ₹20000/- per animal is being provided.
- For calf, donkey, pony/mule relief at the rate of ₹11000/- per animal is being provided.
- For sheep & goat relief at the rate of ₹3000/- per animal is provided.

- For poultry relief at the rate of ₹100/- per bird is being provided. This is Subject to a ceiling of assistance of ₹400/- per house hold.

Q.-II What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to provide employment to the people who have lost their source of livelihood?

ANS. Rural Development Department has requested the Central Govt. for enhancement of allocation of budget under MGNREGA (Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act). The Department has received its approval. The MGNREGA card holders in the disaster affected areas will be eligible for additional work-days upto 150 in the year 2013-14. Instructions have been issued to all District Magistrates to utilize MGNREGA as employment tool for disaster affected areas.

Q.-III What assistance the government proposes to give to the farmers in whose fields sand and river bed material is deposited?

Ans. For the de-siltation of agriculture & fields relief at the rate of ₹5000/- per hectare in unirrigated areas and ₹8000 per hectare in irrigated areas is being provided. An approval have also been received for items such as debris removal from personal and public properties in the list of approved activities under MGNREGA.

E-Right to health & sanitation:-

Q.-1 Haw many places have been cleared of dead bodies?

Ans.

A total of 192 dead bodies which were found in different parts of the state specially in districts of Rudraprayag, Pauri, Tehri, Dehradun (Rishikesh) and Haridwar have been cremated. A major operation was launched in the Kedar valley (Kedarnath, Junglechatti and Gaurikund) and a total of 84 dead bodies have been cremated in this area. In this regard, UP police has already been informed by PHQ Uttarakhand in order to sensitize the districts which are situated at catchment area of river Ganga.

The Health Department is assisting the Police in ensuring epidemic free disposal of dead bodies. Also, Doctors have been provided for the purpose of Post Mortem and DNA sampling.

Q.-II **How many bodies of the animals are being disposed of in that area?**

Ans. While the primary responsibility for disposal of the animal carcasses lies with the Animal Husbandry Department, the Health Department is assisting the Animal Husbandry Department in ensuring epidemic free disposal.

Q.III **The plan of action for clearing the dead bodies from the towns/villages/jungles or rivers;**

Ans. DIG and above rank officers have been stationed at Guptkashi for search, recovery, retrieval of dead bodies in Kedar valley. Two camps have been setup at Kedarnath and Gaurikund who are working for the disposal of bodies. These two teams located at Guptkashi and Kedarnath are working on panchayatnama/ postmortem, identification, collection of DNA samples and seizing of the articles which were recovered from dead bodies. DNA samples are being taken by a team of specialists. Till date 192 dead bodies have been cremated in the state of which 52 bodies have been disposed of in Kedarnath, 14 in Gaurikund and 18 in Junglechatti area. The other cremations were conducted at Haridwar, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Tehri, Pauri and Dehradun.

Q.-IV. **What steps have been taken to prevent a break of epidemics in the area?**

Ans.

- 1) Under the IDSP – The Rapid Response Team of all the 13 districts of the state comprising one Epidemiologist, one Physician and one Microbiologist with District surveillance officer have been activated to immediately respond to any kind of outbreak.
- 2) The State government requisitioned the services of Director –EMR and Director –NCDC to assist the state in epidemic control measures in response to which, Five Public Health teams comprising of 20 epidemiologists, microbiologist and pathologists are currently monitoring the epidemic situation in all the affected districts of the state. These teams are not only providing valuable guidance to the local health administration in epidemic control measures but also at the same time cross checking the work done by the district level health authorities.
- 3) 4 Senior Officers from the Directorate of Health have been designated nodal officers and are stationed and working in the 5 affected districts ensuring medical supervision and efforts for prevention of

- 4) AYUSH doctors, both contractual as well as regular have been pressed into service by coordinating with the AYUSH department. Mobile teams comprising of 1 AYUSH Doctors, 1 Health Supervisor and 1 MPW have been formed in Rudraprayag and Uttarkashi for the purpose of monitoring the activities of bleaching powder distribution and chlorination at the village level for ensuring safe drinking water. Each team will be covering 4-5 cut off villages at a frequency of 3 days. The teams will visit each village and ensure safe drinking water, sanitation and will help the local ANM for handling Ante Natal Cases.
- 5) The supply of Essential Medicines is regularly maintained through Air as well through road in all the affected districts of Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh and Haridwar.
- 6) As a part of epidemic prevention measures, the health department has undertaken chlorination of drinking water and disinfection of water source by chlorine and bleaching powder in the disaster affected areas. A total of 16,13,000 Chlorine Tablets have been distributed to the affected districts. Also a total of 51,000 kg Bleaching Powder, 50 Lt. of Anti Fly Solution (For District Rudraprayag only) and 2700 Kg Lime have been distributed to the affected districts.
- 7) 6 Water purifying plants have been installed at the following places in affected districts ; Guptkashi, Uttarkashi, Fata (Each with a capacity of 2000 Liters per hour) and Bulwakot , Rampur, Dharchula (each with 80 Liters per hour capacity)
- 8) The Department has issued an advisory related to food safety – whereby all the food items will be sampled and tested before distribution. The advisory also covers the destruction of cooked and semi cooked food materials before contamination.
- 9) In consultation with Govt. of India experts, awareness campaign being conducted to promote hygiene, safe drinking water and sanitation practices using all the media channels including Electronic and Print media. The awareness campaign focuses on Chlorination of Drinking Water, Dos and Dents about the food safety; pamphlets and miking covering the same are being distributed among the affected population. Inter Personal Communication through 108 Call centre is being undertaken with all the pregnant mothers in affected areas, guiding them towards safe delivery , immunization and personal hygiene.
- 10) The Health Department is actively coordinating with Water supply departments at the state and district level for cleaning of drinking water sources so as to ensure clean drinking water. As

already mentioned earlier, bleaching powder and Chlorine tablets have been provided to all the Chief Medical Officers of 13 districts to undertake the above activities. Besides this around 200 Choloroscopes have been requisitioned from the Government of India and supplied to the affected districts for measuring and monitoring of Chlorination.

Q.-V How many sanitation teams have been deployed to clear the dead bodies the above area?

Ans.

- 40 sweepers and 4 supervisors along with sufficient stock of Bleaching powder and lime have been place at the disposal of Home Department to help the local administration in the affected areas.
- Besides this, 2500 face masks, 2500 gloves, 500 Personal Protection Equipment kits and 50 liters Anti –Fly solution has also been placed at the disposal of Home Department for sanitation teams deployed by them.

Q.-VI How many medical teams have been sent to the area?

Ans.

a. During the Rescue Phase

- During this phase the priority of the department was to provide medical aid to the stranded population. For this purpose a total of 43 medical teams comprising 313 doctors and 4977 paramedical staff were deployed in the affected districts.
- The supply of Essential Medicines is regularly maintained through Air as well through road in all the affected districts
- Till date we have given treatment to 1158 inpatients affected by natural calamity . This is in addition to the OPD Treatment provided by our Medical Teams (govt. & private) and hospitals to 29574 patient
- During the rescue period, the state health department hospitals have conducted 58 postmortems of the victims. Further, to assist the Home Department in carrying out the DNA sampling of the dead bodies at the Kedarnath- Rambada –Gaurikund area, a team of 10 M.B.B.S doctors of Health Department have been placed at their disposal at Guptkashi.

b. During the Post Rescue Phase

- The state requisitioned the Government of India for providing 212 General Duty Medical Officers and 97 specialists for manning our

facilities due to acute shortage of MBBS doctors. In response to the above, the Govt. of India has till date provided 38 non specialist MBBS Doctors and 40 specialist Doctors.

- For providing psycho social support and counter post traumatic stress among the sufferers, a total of 11 psychiatrists are working in the affected areas of Rudraprayag, Badrinath , Pithoragrah and Chamoli. These include psychiatrists from NIMHANS. IHBAS and other hospitals.
- MSF (Doctors without Borders) teams are conducting the psycho social assessment of the population in the disaster affected areas.
- 2 teams from Govt. Medical College Srinagar comprising of 1 doctor, 1 pharmacist and support staff deployed at Gaurikund with 4 Emergency Medical Technician from 108 Ambulance services along with medicines, 500 oxygen cylinders, 450 Personal Protection Equipment Kits. This is for the health checkup of the medical relief teams .
- 2 teams from Govt. Medical College Haldwani comprising of 1 physician, 1 anesthetist and 1 orthopedic surgeon have been sent to Pithoragrah – Dharchula Area and Bageshwar.
- 2 Basic Life Support Ambulances from 108 Ambulance services are stationed in Sonprayag and serving the surrounding areas

F-Religious and cultural rights:-

Q.-I Whether the dead bodies are being disposed of as per the religious rituals of the persons?

Ans. The dead bodies are being disposed off with proper dignity and according to the religious ritual of the person. Considering the emotional and religious feeling of the aggrieved family members more than 20 volunteers from shanti kunj were also associated for the last rituals so that all the cremation process could be performed in the prescribed manner.

G-Right to potable water:-

Q.-I What steps have been taken for providing drinking water with identified drinking water treatment and restoring drinking water resources.

Ans.

1. Total 1987 drinking water schemes (feeding 27.83 lakhs people) has been damaged due to disaster. Out of them, 1299 schemes has been restored (feeding 25.00 lakhs). Drinking water Department is trying

to provide drinking water to all the affected villages. The Drinking water Department is actively co-ordinating with Health Department as the State and District level for cleaning of drinking water sources so as to ensure safe drinking water.

2. In the affected areas, 6 Water purifiers (3 automatic with a capacity of 2000 Liters per hour and 3 manual with a capacity of 80 Liters per hour) have been installed in the affected areas.

3. As a part of epidemic prevention measures, the health department has undertaken chlorination of drinking water and disinfection of water source by chlorine and bleaching powder in the disaster affected areas. A total of 16,13,000 Chlorine Tablets have been distributed to the affected districts. Also a total of 51,000 kg Bleaching Powder, 50 Lt. of Anti Fly Solution and 2700 Kg Lime have been distributed to the affected districts.

4. ANMs, ASHAs and other field workers have been provided with Chlorine Tablets for distribution in the households in the affected area.

H-Safety and security:-

Q.-I What steps have been taken for safety and security of the children, women and elderly from scavengers?

Ans. A circular containing proper guidelines were issued from PHQ to all the disaster affected districts to provide special security to children, women and elderly persons. An alert was sent to all the anti human trafficking units situated in different parts of the state to keep a special vigil so that no anti social element could take a benefit of such situation and indulge in trafficking of minors and women. The AHTU along with the local police, deeply interrogated and verified each and every person crossing the border. The SSB/ ITBP were also requested to tighten the security and do the necessary checking and frisking.

Q.-II How many cases of theft, dacoity, rape, kidnapping, etc. Were reported after 16th June, 2013 from the area so far?

Ans. No cases of theft, robbery, rape, kidnapping or abduction have been registered/reported by the pilgrims/tourists to the local police. The crime registered in the affected districts related to incidents affecting the local population which are being investigated. Details are given below-

Crime head	Uttarkashi	Chamoli	Rudraprayag	Pithoragarh
Dacoity	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	1	0	0
Theft	1	1	1	2

Kidnapping	1	2	0	0
Rape	1	0	0	0
Other crimes	5	4	0	5
Total	8	8	1	7

To ensure the safety and security of the pilgrims/tourists 53 temporary outposts/checkposts and help centers were opened during the Yatra season enroute to the Chardhams. They were adequately manned with proper communication facilities etc.

I-Restoration of infrastructure:-

Q.-1 **The plan of action of the State Government has undertaken to connect the areas where roads/footpath/tracks/bridges (small & big) have been washed out by the flash flood.**

ANS. A total 2070 roads have been damaged /blocked till now due to the severe flood. Out of which 1665 have been temporarily restored for traffic (till 15.07.2013). 385 Dozers/J.C.B.'s (Departmental and Private) and approx. 5800 labourers are deployed by the department to open the rest of damaged roads. In the first stage, emphasis is being given on opening the blocked roads for traffic, which will take approximately one and half month to complete.

Instructions have been issued to BADP districts to utilize the BADP funds for reconstruction of essential infrastructure destroyed by the recent landslides and floods. These districts have been given the flexibility to reallocate BADP funds from earlier sanctioned works to new priority works which will be identified by them. Central Government has also been requested to provide the assistance of Rs. 77.31 crores for repair and reconstruction of damaged PMGSY roads.

Power distribution system was damaged to a large extent Power supply to 3758 Villages was disrupted 36.50 KV Lines, 275.70 KM of 11 KV/L.T. Lines & 377 No. of distribution transformers were either lost or damaged irreparably. Out of above mentioned 3758 village power supply has been restored to 3669 villages till now. Due to damage to roads & heavy damage and destruction of lines and poles restoration of supply to rest of 89 villages will take some time. However plan has been prepared to restore supply to these villages by 30th of September, 2013. Estimated damage to distribution system is approximately Rs. 26.26 Cr. The village which are still devoid of power supply are being provided with solar lanterns.

So far as generation is concerned 11 SHPs, 41 Micro plants and 3 large power plants were damaged. 26 micro & mini plants have been restored. One large hydro power plant-Manari Bhali Stage-II has been

restored partly and efforts are being made to restore this plants fully as well as Manari Bhali stage-I by 15th of this month. Besides Chilla plant has been made fully operational. Total loss suffered by generation plants is to the tune of Rs. 142.60 Cr.

Q.-II **What plan of action has been made to clear the debris of the bridges, bulidings and the boulders brought by the flooded rivers?**

Ans. Approximately 80 bridges has completely been damaged and approximately 145 bridges has been partially damaged . An amount of ₹ 122.33 Crore (approximately) is estimated to be required to restore the damaged bridges/roads.

Arrangement of Folding and Balley bridges is being made by the department to connect the traffic where the bridges has been damaged due to floods. In case of completely damaged pedestrian roads, arrangement of ropeways (Trollies) is being made to connect the traffic temporarily. Due to disaster, approx. 55 no. of residential/non residential buildings are also damaged. Suitable places has to be selected for re-construction of these buildings.

The debris deposited in the roads due to floods are being disposed to suitable dumping sites with the help of J.C.B's, dozers and laboures to open the roads for traffic.

J-Right of vulnerable groups of the society:-

Q.I- **What steps has been taken to prevent abuse of orphen children, women and the elderly?**

Ans. A circular with proper guidelines were issued from PHQ to all the disaster affected districts to provide special security to children, women and elderly persons. An alert was sent to all the anti human trafficking units in the state to keep a special vigil so that no anti social element could take a benefit of such situation and indulge in trafficking of minors and women. The AHT unit along with the local police, deeply interrogated and verified each and every person crossing the border. The SSB/ ITBP were also requested to tighten the security and do the necessary checking and frisking.

The State Government has decided to take care of orphan children in effected areas. The Social welfare Department is preparing a proposal for the establishment of one children home in District-Uttarkashi and Rudrapryag for the children between the age group of 0 to 10 years. Under the Govt. of India scheme of ICPS, establishment of one Aashrayagriha in istrict Chamoli and Pithouragarh for the children and women are proposed. The Social

welfare Department is trying to provide the benefit of the scheme 'Short stay home' 'Gaura devi Kanya dhan yojana' & 'open shelter' in effected areas for children/women.

K-Disaster Mangement:-

Q.-I Is the district disaster mangement system functional?

Ans. As per the provisions of DM Act, 2005 District Disaster Management Authorities are created in all 13 districts in Uttarakhand and a minimum staff is also provided to support these District Authorities.

An Emergency Operation Center is also established in each district which is functional on 24 x 7 basis. District Disaster Management Plans have also been prepared.

Q.-II What measures have been taken to prevent such disasters in future?

Ans. Prevention of natural disasters like cloud bust, flood, earthquake & flash flood is not possible and involvement of only mitigation measures can be taken to minimize the impact of such natural events. Mitigation is a complex issue and involves various department of State & Central Govt. & other agencies. Various mitigation measures have to be planned and executed with limited resource available in the State. Various mitigation measures carried out so far include retrofitting of school building is initiated to make vulnerable school building earthquake resistant, construction & reinforcement of embankments along the river banks. Search & Rescue training is also being provided at Nyay Panchayat level & trained local people are being used in Search & Rescue activities. Currently 22 such teams are deployed in different districts.

Q.-III What lessons have been learnt from natural disasters in past?

Ans.

- Greater ownership by line departments during infrastructure development.
- Strict adherences & enforcement of building byelaws.
- Create interaction with forces & familiarization of key responsibility area along with local administration.
- Strengthening response at committee level
- To have a force (SAR) of local personnel trained in basic and advance mountaineering courses.
- Control of number of pilgrims and tourist in the state.
- Registration of tourist/ pilgrim.

L-Monetary Relief:-

Q. Monetary relief distributed so far the various categories of damages as per advertisement of the State Government in the daily "the Pioneer" dated 04-07-2013 separately for each category of damages 1 to 18 & other relief heads given in the advertisement.

Ans. Total Gratuitous Relief of ₹11800 lakh have been sanctioned to districts against which amount of ₹1705 lakhs have been disbursed under following heads-

S.N.	Head	Amount (₹ lakh)
1.	Deceased persons	217.50
2.	Disabled	-
3.	Injured	6.68
4.	Fully damage Pucca house	1172.87
5.	Partially damage Pucca house	235.86
6.	Fully damage Kutcha house	14.20
7.	Partially damage Kutcha house	25.56
8.	Big animals	22.35
9.	Small animals	9.90

M

Q.-1 Has the State government made any overall plan for measures to be taken in the short term, medium term and long term?

Ans.

a-Short term measures

- Provision of temporary shelters for persons who have lost their houses.
- Provision of house rent @ ₹2000/- per family per month for a period of next six months.
- Provision of free ration for villages that are cut off till they remain cut off.
- Restoration of power, water supply and fast tracks.

b-Medium term

- Geotechnical survey at the disaster affected areas for assessing suitability of the places for human habitation.
- Identification of sites for rehabilitation.
- Preparation of rehabilitation plan.
- Reconstruction of disaster affected infrastructure and restoration of connectivity.

c-Long term

- Rehabilitation of disaster affected villages.

Annexure-6

Field VISIT OF THE TEAM on 16th and 17th July 2013

VISIT OF THE TEAM TO GUPTKASHI, DISTRICT RUDRAPRYAG

The team visited Guptkashi Tehsil of District Rudrapryag on 16.7.2013 afternoon. Discussions were held with the DM, SP and another IAS Officer who had been posted as the Nodal Officer and given powers of DM for some of the areas of the district in the wake of the disaster. The district authorities intimated that the immediate cause of the natural disaster was heavy snow fall accompanied by heavy rains causing melting of a huge amount of snow in the Choribara glacier and cloudbursts above the Kedarnath valley. The consequences of these natural phenomena were that the Choribara lake overflowed and brought a huge volume of water down the hills. This was followed by the breaking of a snow clad mountain which hit the banks of the Choribara lake resulting in bringing down huge quantity of soil, rock and water which devastated the whole of Kedarnath, washed away Rambada and Gaurikund towns and created havoc in the villages and cities on the banks of river Mandakani. It was told by the district authorities that the waves of water, mud and rocks etc. were about 15 feet high. This caused enormous loss of life, livestock and properties including precious agricultural land.

The district authorities intimated that all the major and minor roads, footpaths and tracks, major and minor bridges have been washed away by the flash flood and the road connectivity to Kedarnath from Guptkashi had been broken. The road from Guptkashi to Rudraprayag had also been

washed away. Moreover, major and small bridges and the bridges connecting the remote villages had also been washed away by the flash floods. The landslides have caused devastation on the roads. Many villages have either been totally washed away or the houses were too damaged or precarious to live.

The district authorities further intimated that the villagers north of Guptakashi were one way or the other closely connected with the Yatra to Kedarnath. Therefore, most of the bread winners in those villages have lost their lives. In many of the villages, only women have survived. In some of these villages, two generations had perished as school children were accompanying their parents or family members, and some poor children had gone there to earn some money to sustain their life.

The district administration admitted that many of the villages were still cut-off. However, all the villages had been reached. Relief material was being dropped by helicopters and they were providing relief material in the form of dry foods i.e., 10 kg of flour, 15 kg of rice, 2 kg of dal, 1 kg salt, 250 gm. spices, 5 kg of sugar and 250 gm. of tea, per family, per month. However, the steep mountain and bad weather were causing problem in dropping the relief items in these villages.

Since there had been a large number of deaths in the Kedar valley, post-traumatic stress disorder was quite visible in the villages. The State Government did not have enough doctors, and therefore, the district administration is planning to involve NGOs in the task of treating such disorder in the villagers.

The DM, Rudraprayag further intimated the team that Kedarnath, Rambada, and Gaurikund had not yet been cleared of the visible dead bodies. The dead bodies of animals would be taken up in the second phase. The district administration had sent its teams to the area in search of the dead bodies and cremation thereof. He further told that cremation of the dead bodies was being done as per the Vedic rituals.

The district administration told that the immediate relief of Rs.2700/- per family has been disbursed and they have paid Rupees six crores towards the completely damaged houses.

The District Magistrate, Rudraprayag intimated the team members that their first priority was to restore the road connectivity, electricity, and hydroelectric power stations and to stop epidemic in the area. He further intimated that the Yatra needs to be commenced for the regular livelihood of the people of the area.

The team observed that many of the villages were still cut off and had not been accessed by the district administration. It was not known whether the relief material for their survival was reaching to them or not.

Secondly, the team further observed that there was no plan of action for creating immediate livelihood for the affected people and the only hope was the start of the Yatra.

Thirdly, no visible action plan for providing shelters to those who have lost their houses or whose houses are not in living condition was found. Even temporary tents have not been provided to them. The situation may become very grim on the onset of the winter in two months.

Fourthly, the team witnessed that relief material was being distributed on the roads by Dera Sucha Soudha, but there was no official of the district administration present. It is apprehended that in view of not keeping any record or identification of the people receiving the relief, the distribution may be skewed. It was further intimated to the team that some of the non-affected people were taking the relief material a number of times and the relief material is reaching the shops.

VISIT OF THE TEAM TO MANERI BLOCK OF BHATWARI TEHSIL, DISTRICT UTTARKASHI ON 17.7.2013

The team visited Didsari Village of Bhatwari Tehsil of Uttarkashi. The team was accompanied by DM, Uttarkashi and SP, Uttarkashi. The DM intimated the team that there were 114 houses in the village out of which 23 houses had been washed away. 34 villages in the district have been declared dangerous for habitation.

Shri Vijay Singh Rana, the Village Pradhan of Didsari told that 19 families belonging to Scheduled Caste community were rehabilitated at this place called New Didsari after the earthquake in the year 1991. But some of the houses have been washed away by the flash flood and many other houses are in the danger zone. The Pradhan of the village further intimated that some of the houses which have not collapsed and are still standing had been paid compensation by the State Government, whereas for a few other houses which had been completely shattered by the flash floods, no compensation had been paid. The Pradhan told that compensation had been paid to Shri Budhi Lal s/o Deepa, Santosh, Sunder s/o Thepad Lal; and Pratap Lal, Hanshu Lal and Jamuna Devi had not been paid compensation

even though their houses had completely collapsed or were only next to those houses and were certainly in the danger zone.

One of the villagers Shamu Prasad Dimiri intimated that they have received 10 kg. of flour, 15 kg. of rice, 2 kg of dal, 1 litre edible oil, 1 packet of salt and 250 gm. of spices. But no kerosene or other fuel for cooking had been given to them. They had also been paid Rs. 2700/- as interim relief in cash. The villagers also intimated that the bridge connecting Maneri had been washed away by the flash flood. Now the villagers have to take a round of about about 3 kms. to cross the river Baghirathi. As a result, students are finding it very difficult to go to school. The villagers also told that the electricity had not been restored in the village since the day of the disaster.

The team took photographs of the devastation caused by the river Baghirathi in the village, and the houses which have collapsed and were in danger zone were also photographed. The villagers requested the team to get them re-settled in an appropriate place in the area so that they could start building their houses before the onset of the winter.

The villagers also intimated that all the road connection to the area had been washed away. Therefore, it was not easy to get the construction material.

The team was also approached by the villagers of Jarnk, Block Bhatwadi, District Uttarkashi. Shri Udey Singh Rana son of Shri Inder Singh, an ex-serviceman told the team that in the earthquake of 1991 the district administration declared the ground floor of a house as completely destroyed whereas the first floor was shown partially destroyed and paid compensation accordingly. This was also done in the year 2012 floods. He has requested the team that such sort of unreasonable approach on the part of the district administration should not be repeated this time.

One of the villagers Bagirath of village Vayana, Bhatwadi, Uttarkashi stated to the team that due to landslides his agricultural land had been silted, and therefore, compensation should be paid so as to enable him to clear this agricultural land.

The DM, Uttarkashi informed the team that recent floods had caused silting in the riverbed up to 5 meters. As a result, the course of the river has come very close to the roads or the villages. He estimated that to protect the Uttarkashi town an amount of rupees one thousand crore will be needed.

The team observed that there are certain inconsistencies in the payment of compensation for damaged houses in village Didsari. The rehabilitation of villagers belonging to SC community at New Didsari after the earthquake in the year 1991 seems to have been done without the consent of the Geological Survey of India and they need to be rehabilitated again. It was further observed that no fuel for cooking dry food had been supplied by the district administration in the village. It was also observed that no sugar or tea was distributed to the villagers. Moreover, the onset of the winter is near and no visible steps have been taken by the district administration for providing alternate shelters to those whose houses have been washed away and whose houses have been declared dangerous.

VISIT OF THE TEAM TO RELIEF CAMPS SITUATED AT JOSHIMATH, DISTRICT CHAMOLI ON 17.7.2013

District Chamoli is one of the three worst affected districts of the State by the flash flood and the landslides on 16th and 17th June, 2013. The team was intimated that there were cloudbursts and landslides in some of the areas of the district such as Urgam Valley etc. causing washing away of the

houses and destruction of many other houses besides silting and washing away of agricultural land. The DM, Chamoli intimated the team that these areas along with Govindghat are totally cut off and are also inaccessible due to bad weather and heavy rains. The administration was trying hard to drop relief material to these areas through helicopters and they were also trying to connect these places with the road by constructing temporary bridges of wood- logs over river Alaknanda.

The team visited two relief camps situated at Joshimath. The First Camp at Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Guest House was accommodating the villagers of Pulna and Bhaundar. Both these villages had been washed away by the flash flood and these villagers were rescued to Joshimath by helicopters. 98 families of Pulna and Bhaundar were initially kept at Expedition Hostel, but later on shifted to the Guest House of Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam. A total of 465 villagers (including women and children) have been accommodated in 10 rooms.

The other relief camp nearby in Jyotir Tourist Complex of Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam was accommodating 34 families from Govindghat and Pundakeshwar villages and 3 families from Lambagar. The lady inmates in the camp wondered as to how long they would have to stay in the camp. It was also told by them that they were owners of big hotels and shops at Govindghat which have been completely washed away. Today they had to beg for bread and did not have any money to pay fees of their children studying in the cities. However, there was no complaint of ration and food, but they complained of shortage of space and privacy of the women and young grown up girls in the camp.

The camps were found to be overcrowded, particularly the one housing Pulna villagers. There was no privacy for women and children in the camp and there were no visible plan of action for re-settlement, livelihood and provision of shelters for these villagers.

The DM was advised by the team leader to take immediate steps to decongest the relief camps. It seemed that though the guest houses had more rooms, those had not been made available to the villagers.