

Damage to Kedarnath temple complex

951. DR. BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any team of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has visited Kedarnath to assess the damage to the temple complex due to natural calamity in mid-June;

(b) if so, the details of assessment of the damage done to the temple as found by the survey team;

(c) the recommendations/suggestions made by the team of the Archaeological Survey of India; and

(d) by when the repairs of the temple and surroundings would be done to restore habitation there?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI KATOCH): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) team visited the Kedarnath temple on 2nd and 3rd August, 2013 to assess the damage to the temple. Overall, the temple structure is found in a fair state of conservation. However, some portions of the temple on the northern, eastern and western side indicate moderate signs of damage in the form of dislodged stones on the eastern and western facade, damage to the entrance doorways, bulge in western facade and settlement on the southern side. No signs of physical damages to the interior of the temple were visible.

(c) and (d) The Kedarnath temple is not a protected monument of the ASI. However, ASI will provide necessary technical advice and expertise to the Uttarakhand Government for conservation of Kedarnath temple. The repair work to the temple is possible after establishment of the accessibility to the site.

Investigation into Adarsh Housing Society scam

952. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of investigation into the Adarsh Housing Society scam;

(b) whether a large number of army personnel were found involved in that irregularity and if so, the details thereof;