

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 3012
ANSWERED ON -22/03/2021

CHAR DHAM HIGHWAY PROJECT

3012. Dr. L. HANUMANTHAI AH:

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recent construction activities including construction and widening of roads for the Char Dham project contributed to the Uttarakhand floods disaster in February 2, 2021;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the identified causes for the disaster;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken cognizance of the views of the Supreme Court appointed High Powered Committee which has stated that there is a link between Char Dham Construction and the floods; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

(a) to (b) Central Government is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the Country. As per reports received from Government of Uttarakhand, Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Defence Geo-informatics Research Establishment (DGRE), construction and widening of roads for the Char Dham project did not contribute to the Uttarakhand floods disaster. As per the scientific evidence available with the State Government this is purely a natural event with no indication of human footprint directly attributable to its cause.

(c) & (d) No meeting of Supreme Court appointed High Powered Committee (HPC) have been convened after 2nd February 2021, thus no views of HPC regarding link between Char Dham construction and floods have been received by Ministry.
