

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 868**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 09TH FEBRUARY, 2022/ MAGHA 20, 1943 (SAKA)
STAMPEDE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR**

868. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any enquiry report of stampede at the Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine in Jammu and Kashmir, in which nearly 12 people died and over a dozen were injured in a stampede on 31st December, 2021 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to develop any system for the hassle free smooth darshan of devotees in the future in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) to (c) : The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has constituted a high level committee headed by Principal Secretary (Home), Govt. of J&K to ascertain the reasons behind the stampede incident at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. The Shrine Board has taken the following measures to ensure safety of pilgrims:

- (i) Online Yatra Registration to the extent of 80% of the total number allowed for Yatra has been implemented with effect from 05.01.2022.**
- (ii) Token System /Group System for releasing the pilgrims in Darshan queues in batches has already been put into practice.**
- (iii) For effective and Real Time Crowd Management at Bhawan and all along the Track, the RFID based Crowd Management System for live Tracking of the pilgrims has been approved.**

- (iv) Works such as Yatri Queue Management-at Bhawan and at Bhairon Ji Mandir, Suspension Bridge/Dedicated Exit Route at Bhawan.**
- (v) Additional 30 minutes per day has been allotted for normal darshans.**
- (vi) Construction of Durga Bhawan, a new structure to accommodate 5000 pilgrims a day to ease the space constraint.**
- (vii) Additional CCTV Cameras installed for real time monitoring and management of crowd.**
- (viii) Six video walls installed for mass communication and Live Darshans of the sanctum sanctorum.**
- (ix) Additional deployment of JK police personnel and CRPF personnel.**
- (x) Additional Halting points operationalized for holding pilgrims in case of rush situations.**
- (xi) The lockers at Bhawan relocated and shifted to the roof top of Manokamna Bhawan for decongestion of Yatra.**

‘Public Order’ and ‘Police’ are State Subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Thus, the responsibilities of maintaining law and order, rests primarily with the respective State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government keeps a constant watch on the situation and responds appropriately to the emergent situations. Among other measures, alerts and advisories are issued from time to time to the States/UTs.
