

Earthquake of 29 March 1999 in the Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

SITUATION REPORT

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

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Earthquake of 29th March, 1999

An earthquake of magnitude of 6.8 on the Richter scale occurred at 0035 hours on 29th March 1999 in the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh, affecting 6 districts viz. Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Tehri

Garhwal, Bageshwar, Dehradun and Pauri Garhwal in varying degrees. The impact of this earthquake was comparatively more in the districts of Chamoli and Rudraprayag.

After-shocks

According to the India Meteorological Department two tremors occurred in the morning of 7th March 1999 - First at 0107 hours of 5.0 magnitude and second at 0217 hours of 4.5 magnitude on the Richter scale in U.P. hills. Again in the evening, two more tremors with their epicenter in Chamoli district occurred - one at 2119 hrs with a magnitude of 5.00 on the Richter scale and another at 2154 hrs with a magnitude of 4.6 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was reported to be in district Chamoli close to earlier earthquake. Earlier another aftershock of 5.00 magnitude on the Richter scale was recorded at 0232 hrs on 31st March 1999. According to the State Government, no fresh casualties or injured has been reported.

According to the available information from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh (position at 1400 hours on 12.4. 1999) - details of the extent of damage caused due to earthquake of 29th March 1999 in hilly areas and relief measures undertaken are as under-

| District | Dead | Injured | Houses damaged | Villages affected | People affected (lakh*) |
|------------------|------|---------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Chamoli | 63 | 125 | 29170 | 1258 | 3.26 |
| 2. Rudraparyag | 35 | 177 | 20025 | 611 | 1.15 |
| 3. Bageshwar | 1 | 14 | 369 | 318 | 0.05 |
| 4. Tehri Garhwal | 6 | 66 | 6812 | 408 | 0.41 |
| 5. Pauri Garhwal | - | 13 | 9472 | 579 | 0.05 |
| 6. Dehradun | - | - | 198 | - | - |
| Total | 105 | 395 | 66046 | 3174 | 4.92 |

*Lakh.....100,000

The State Government has taken the following relief measures

As part of reinforcement of the administration in the affected districts, three officers of the rank of ADM/SDM have been posted in Rudraprayag on 31.3.1999. One Additional Commissioner had been posted earlier in this district. In Chamoli district, three ADMs and three SDMs/Tensildars have been posted.

Distribution of shelter material

| District | Tent | Tarpaulins | Plastic sheets | Darries | Blankets |
|---------------|------|------------|----------------|---------|----------|
| Chamoli | 3035 | 10571 | 2991 | 1951 | 3322 |
| Rudraprayag | 2145 | 3385 | 8110 | 830 | 215 |
| Tehri Garhwal | 180 | 1100 | 1180* | - | 400 |
| Total | 5360 | 15056 | 12281 | 2781 | 3937 |

*Tin sheets

- 90 relief centres established - Chamoli-53, Rudraprayag- 24, Tehri Garhwal-4, Pauri Garhwal-7, Bageshwar-2
- 17795 families provided shelters
- About 1.50 lakh people evacuated
- Distributed 6718 quintals of atta/rice in Chamoli, 100 quintals in Rudraprayag and 97.5 quintals in Tehri Garhwal
- Distributed 4000 food packets and other relief materials in the affected areas
- Adequate supplies of food and milk in both the districts ensured
- Gratuitous and other kind of relief distributed

| District | Amount(Rs. in lakhs) |
|---------------|----------------------|
| Chamoli | 365.00 |
| Rudraprayag | 171.35 |
| Tehri Garhwal | 13.92 |
| Bageshwar | 7.73 |
| Pauri Garhwal | 4.80 |
| Dehradun | 1.46 |

- Ex-gratia payment made to each the family of deceased
- Out of 395 persons injured, 158 hospitalised, 122 discharged from hospital
- Out of 13 seriously injured and admitted in hospital Shrinagar Pauri, six discharged
- GR of Rs. 5.29 lakh paid to 210 injured persons
- 35 medical teams deputed in affected areas. In addition 38 teams also attached to relief centres
- Provided 100 wireless sets for speedy communication
- An amount of Rs. 5.00 crore* has been allocated to the concerned districts for relief operations (*crore....10,000,000)
- No water supply problem in Chamoli. Only 4% damage infrastructure to be repaired. Water supply in Gopeshwar restored to 90%. But it keeps getting distributed by landslides caused due to blasting by ITBP to clear the Gopeshwar-Mandal road. In other areas, there is no problem.
- Only one major road blocked in Chamoli district
- Total number of animals dead - 327 (95 in Chamoli district, 158 in Rudraprayag, 26 in Tehri Garhwal and 48 in Pauri Garhwal district)
- 683 animals injured - 311 in Chamoli district, 346 in Rudraprayag and 26 in Tehri Garhwal district
- 36 veterinary officers and 81 Extension Officers deputed for relief to animals

Action taken by Govt. of India

- An amount of Rs. 50.00 lakh has been released from Prime Minister National Relief Fund for disbursement @ Rs. 50,000 to next of kin of each dead person
- Army and Air Force is assisting the State machinery in rescue and relief operations

Indo-Tibeton Border Police

- 10 Coys strength deployed for relief and rescue operations
- 33 dead bodies recovered
- 20 injured persons rescued / evacuated
- 5 persons taken out from debris alive
- 16 dead bodies of livestock recovered from the debris
- 12 heavy and 4 light vehicles mobilised for shifting the affected people, evacuation and distribution of relief work

- Road blocks removed at many places
- 4 Sintex Tanks provided for distribution of water
- Control with VHF / W.T. Sets functioning round the clock
- A number of teams sent to earthquake affected areas to survey the affected villagers so that the relief can be provided accordingly
- 5 Medical officer and 38 medics placed at the disposal of District Administration. 881 affected people provided medical aid by ITBP
- 473 tents provided

Border Road Organization (BRO)

- Three roads namely viz. Rishikesh-Joshimath, Joshimath-Malari and Uttarkashi-Harsil maintained by BRO were affected by slides only. Slides Rishikesh-Joshimath road and Uttarkashi-Harsil road were cleared and put through for traffic on 29th March 1999 and Joshimath-Maian road by 30th March 1999.
- On request from State Government PWD road Gopeshwar-Okhimath, which had a major slide put through for traffic on 2nd April 1999
- Gopeshwar-Pokhn road of PWD open for traffic on 3rd April 1999
- No other request for clearing the road received from State Government
- Two water trucks pressed into service for supply of drinking water at Chamoli

Ministry of Defence

- Ministry of Defence has provided 600 tents. Out of this, 400 are EPIP tents (capacity 22-24 persons) and 200 are 180 lbs tents (capacity 10-12 persons). As such, all the 600 tents have the capacity to accommodate about 12,000 persons

Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment

- Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment has set up a Task Force on 8th April 1999 to make an assessment of the damage to housing stock and to prepare a Repair and Reconstruction Action Plan

Ministry of Health

- Ministry of Health Relief material consisting of bleaching powder, blanket, bedsheets, etc. has been sent from adjoining districts. Adequate number of orthopaedic and general surgeons along with anesthetists has been deputed to the affected areas. The State Government has informed that there is no shortage of medicines and medical manpower in the area

Indian Red Cross Society

- Indian Red Cross Society had dispatched the following relief material on 30th March 1999.

(i) Tarpaulins (14 x 12) - 500 pcs.

(ii) Blankets - 500 pcs.

(iii) Kitchen utensils - 250 sets

(iv) Cooking oil - 250 litre

(v) Rice (One truck load) - 10 Mts

(vi) Assorted clothings - 1000 pcs.

Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment

- Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment is providing Rs. 1.55 crore for construction of 900 houses under IAY for affected families who are below poverty line (BPL)

Representatives of HESCO

- Representatives of HESCO (Himalayan Ecological Survey and Conservation Organisation) are already at Chamoli to assess the rehabilitation requirements of the rural people

High Level Team

- A High Level Team led by Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission has visited the affected areas on 31.3.1999 to review relief and rehabilitation measures. Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission reviewed the relief operations with the concerned Central Ministries on 1.4.1999. On the directions of Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission, Cabinet Secretary convened a meeting on 3.4.1999 to review the relief, rehabilitation measures and restoration of services. Cabinet Secretary took review meeting at 1200 hrs on Saturday, the 10th April 1999.