

Slides batter Adampool route

KUNALRAI

GANGTOK, May 12: Heavy downpour of Wednesday night have triggered landslides and washed away road formations at different stretches of the Adampool-Sichey route. The road, an alternative route from Ranipool to Gangtok via Reshithang, is closed due to the multiple obstructions presently.

Similarly, the highway connecting North Sikkim through Indira Bypass was also obstructed due to mudslides at Manbir Colony, Lower Burtuk.

Roads & Bridges minister Sandup Lepcha, Tadong MLA G.T. Dhungel and senior officials from concerned departments inspected the

affected spots on Thursday morning.

Speaking to media, the Roads & Bridges minister informed that the sudden but intense rainfall caused the water levels of Rani Khola to rise up sharply and washed away road stretches at Adampool route. The water level rose to about 8 m and also damaged private properties and vehicles of the local residents, he said.

"The Adampool road was being constructed as an alternative route to Gangtok with an aim to decongest traffic along the main highway. The road was almost complete and we are expecting to take over it by this month. However, the havoc caused by the rains has hindered the completion," said



The water levels of Rani Khola rose alarmingly during the Wednesday evening downpour and took away road stretches at Adampool besides washing away a parked truck. SE Pic

Lepcha.

The minister informed that the Roads & Bridges department would be conducting a detailed inspection. We will then submit a report to the government for restoration works, he said

adding that the loss caused by the natural calamity could come to around Rs. 50-Rs.60 crore. We will do all possible to restore the road but some time would be required, he said.

A truck parked on the roadside was washed away by

the surging Rani Khola and is presently stuck in the middle of the river.

Truck owner Bir Bahadur Gurung informed that his truck was washed away almost 500 m during the torrential rainfall. The entire body of the truck

was damaged along with the documents related to the vehicle, he said. He had purchased the truck three years ago and claimed that he has suffered a loss of around Rs. 12 lakh.

MLA G.T. Dhungel

Roads Minister inspects rain damage in Gangtok

"Single night of rain has caused more than Rs 60 crore loss"

SURAJ LIMBOO
GANGTOK, 12 MAY:

Heavy rains on Wednesday night caused extensive damages in and around the capital. To take stock of restoration activities, Minister for Roads and Bridges Department, Samdup Lepcha on Thursday visited various damaged areas in and around Gangtok. He was accompanied by MLA, GT Dhungel along with officials from Roads and Bridges Department.

The Minister inspected the damage along the along alternative highway in Adampool.

Talking with media after the inspection, Minister Samdup Lepcha informed that due to



increase in water level of the river the road has been severely damaged.

Loss worth more than Rs 60 crore has been incurred by a single night of rain, he informed.

"No one is responsi-

ble for this cause, neither department nor contractors. It's a natural disaster," said the Minister.

He also assured to restore the damages but said that it will take some time to be completed.

MLA, GT Dhungel also assured full cooperation from the Government and said that due to monsoon season we cannot start restoration work immediately but work will start as soon as the

rains stop.

Minister Samdup Lepcha also visited various places along the road from Indira Bypass to Burtuk as well as Manbir colony area and took stock of the situation.

मुसलधार पानीले राजधानी वरपर व्यापक क्षति



गान्तोक, १२ मई। बुधवार राति परेको मुसलधार वर्षाले राजधानी गान्तोक वरिपरी निकै क्षति गरेको छ। वर्षाले अधमपुलदेखि रांका/गान्तोक वैकल्पिक मार्ग निकै ठाउँ बिगारेको छ। रानी खोलाको जलस्तर बढेकाले ठाउँ-ठाउँमा बाटोको आधा भाग नै बगाएको छ। बाटो छेउ राखिएको एउटा ट्रक पनि बगाएको छ। ट्रक पूर्णरूपमा

क्षतिग्रस्त भएको छ।

ट्रकका मालिक बीर बहादुर गुरूडले बुधवार राति आएको मुसलधारे वर्षाले सडक छेउ राखिएको उनको ट्रक नै बगाएर लगेको बताए। मूलरूपमा रोलेप निवासी गुरूडकां चालकले ट्रक सडकको तल्लोपट्टि राखेका थिए। मुसलधार पानी आएर खोलाको जलस्तर बढेपछि पानीले ट्रक राखिएको भित्ता नै ध्वस्त बनाइदिएको

र ट्रक खोलामा झरेको उनले अनुमान लगाए। ट्रक लगभग पाँच सय फुट तलसम्म बगाएको छ। पीडित गुरूडले गाडीका सबै दस्तावेजहरू ट्रकभित्र थियो भन्दै सबै बगाएको बताए। उनले दस्तावेजहरू सबै अपटुडेट रहे तापनि इन्स्युरेन्स भने थर्ड पार्टीको रहेको जानकारी गराए। उनले यो ट्रक तीन वर्ष पहिला किनेका थिए। उनले लगभग १२ लाख रूपियाँ क्षति भएको बताए।