

Trout farmers worst hit by monsoon fury in Uttarey

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GEYZING, June 18: A flash flood and landslips triggered by incessant rain on Saturday night has adversely affected the trout farmers of Uttarey under Maneybung-Dentam constituency, completely wiping out some farms.

The famous trout farm of Uttarey run by directorate of fisheries has been completely damaged where the raceways have been either buried under mud and slush due to flash flood. Fish being raised in the farm either died or were swept away into nearby stream by the rain water.

Apart from the government-run trout farm, many other private trout farmers of Uttarey and surrounding areas of Lingey and Sopakha lost their trout farm in the flash flood. "I lost my entire trout farm in the flood on which my family depends. The investment made on farming is completely drained out," a trout farmer from Lingey said.

Some farmers claimed that their trout died due to lack of fresh water supply during the flash flood. Almost 15 farmers from Uttarey block have lost their trout raceways due to flash flood.

Apart from destruction caused to trout farms, the flash flood and landslips have severely damaged other government and private properties in various places. Lingey-Kunabar ward of Sopakha GPU was worst affected where many households are living in fear of another spell of flash flood and landslips if rainfall continues. At least 10 household of Lingey-Kunabar ward have been gravely endangered because of the



swollen Isangley stream, posing a risk for landslides.

The families have abandoned their houses and are presently residing in a neighbour's house located at a safe place. Some houses in the ward have been completely damaged in the flash flood and many families had to abandon their home in wee hours to go to a safe place.

"We feel like we have escaped from death. I pray that no one face such a testing situation," said a local whose house has been damaged in the flash flood.

An affected local from Lingey-Kunabar ward informed that the relief team has not reached out to them as a bridge constructed over Isangley stream which facilitates connection between the ward and other places have collapsed and it is not possible to cross the turbulent river by other means. However, she informed that intimation about the situation in the ward is being sought by the

officials from various government agencies regularly. She shared that they have taken shelter in a safe location and if the downpour discontinues, they have got no worries.

Dentam SDM N.K. Karki informed that the concerned authority is trying its best to reach out to the affected ward. He maintained that inspection of other affected areas which were accessible have been done by the concerned department. He added that effort is being done for deployment of a relief team to Lingey-Kunabar ward which remains totally cut-off due to a bridge collapse at Isangley stream.

Karki further shared that process for compensation to the affected people would be initiated after an assessment of loss and damages suffered in the natural calamity under governmental provisions.

The lower Dentam belt, lying nearby Kalez river also suffered brunt of the over flooded river. Two houses, a garage located nearby and

some excavators were swept away by Kalez river causing severe loss to affected families. Dentam-Pelling road is blocked as a major portion of road has sunk due to landslide.

Karki expressed that though the manpower from Road & Bridges department has been deployed for road restoration work, restoration may take time considering the extremity of damage.

Lok Sabha MP Indra Hang Subba and the SKM Maneybung-Dentam in-charge along with various governmental officials visited flood and landslide-affected areas of the constituency. The officials from various departments were advised to prepare a detailed report of the loss and damages for providing an instant relief and compensation to the affected people.

Other low lying areas around Kalez river of Chandabung GPU under Geyzing - Bermiok constituency also suffered

extensive damages due to swollen river. A bridge at Sirithang which used to facilitate shorter route connectivity with Geyzing-Bermiok constituency with the rest of other places has been swept away along with a newly-constructed organic haat shed and a crematorium established by the State government. The under-construction Buda Nilakantha temple of Rangsang and Kalez river confluence has also suffered a partial damage as flash flood forced its way through the construction site. A foot bridge that connects Radhu with Sapong-Sumladen has also been severely damaged cutting accessibility completely. A team of officials led by Martam BDO Kailash Gurung inspected the affected areas and took stock of situation.

Damage to properties and houses were also reported from other West Sikkim constituencies of Daramdin, Soreng-Chakung and Rinchenpong.

Army rescues 300 more tourists in North Sikkim

SE Report

GANGTOK, June 18: Troops of Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army on Sunday assisted 300 tourists in their evacuation from Chungthang in North Sikkim.

On Saturday, the troops of Striking Lion Division had worked relentlessly and assisted the evacuation of 3500 tourists who were stranded in Lachen and Lachung due to road disruptions, an Army release informs.

The troops were fully geared up for the second day evacuation operation with report of 300 tourists likely to

come down from Lachung and Lachen.

“By 11 am on Sunday, all the 300 tourists were assisted to cross over the temporary bridge for further move towards Gangtok. The tourists were provided food, resting place and medical comfort by the Indian Army troops,” the release mentions.

The release mentions that a civilian fell unconscious and the Army medical team immediately swung into action. The patient was immediately evacuated by ambulance and stretcher and taken to the nearest Army Field Hospital for further treatment. The patient was reported to be stable at the time of reporting, the release mentions.

