

CM visits landslide-hit areas of Uttarey, assures full relief measures to affected families

KUSH HANG LEEWANG

GEYZING, June 21: Chief Minister PS Golay on Wednesday visited the landslides-hit areas of Uttarey under Maneybung-Dentam constituency and handed over relief fund, rations and required items to the affected families.

The most-affected was Lingey Sopakha GPU where landslides and flash-flood broke out on June 17 night. Many families were displaced as they abandoned their houses in fear of another spell of natural calamities.

Addressing the affected villagers, the Chief Minister expressed his sadness on seeing the hardships suffered by them due to the monsoon-induced natural disasters. The State government is here to help the affected families and to show our solidarity with the people of Sikkim in times of their pain and sufferings, he said.

We brought the entire government fraternity for your assistance as we want to express that the government is always there to support you in times of need and we will ensure all necessary assistance is provided, Golay said.



The emergency relief fund to the affected families was from the Chief Minister's relief fund as per the assessment report of Geyzing district administration.

The relief fund disbursed is a temporary relief to the affected people as a medium of resettlement, said the Chief Minister. He added that the State government would consider providing other relief initiatives after final estimation of loss and damages caused by the natural calamity.

The Geyzing district

administration would also be providing relief to the affected families as per the government norms.

The displaced families are presently taking shelter in residences of their relatives and neighbours. They will be shifted to the nearby Tourism guest houses and government properties till the threat of landslides and flash flood during the monsoon does not recede, directed the Chief Minister.

The rental cost in the Tourism guest houses and the government properties for the

displaced families would be borne by the State government.

Golay informed that the Roads & Bridges department has been directed to establish an alternative temporary road connectivity network through Intake power station to Lingey - Sopakha and Cheewabhanjyang to facilitate supply of essential commodities and services.

Road restoration work and construction of a permanent bridge as the connectivity network for Sopakha and other rural areas

such as Cheewabhanjyang may take time considering we are in midst of the monsoon, informed the Chief Minister to the gathering.

However, all other temporary alternative means will be explored to sort out the connectivity issue, said the Chief Minister.

"Considering that monsoon season is in progress which may last up to September, coming up with permanent solutions regarding road connectivity and bridge may be unwise at the moment. So, we are

looking for alternative solution for the time being. We have not discarded the final solution but need some time considering the ongoing monsoon," Golay said.

The Chief Minister also visited the Dentam bridge which still remains cut-off as major portion of the road stretch has sunk due to landslide. Many houses are left in precarious conditions.

Golay asserted that affected families would be compensated as per governmental provisions and other means.