

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†2271
ANSWERED ON 08.07.2019**

DIFFICULTIES FACED BY TOURISTS IN CHAR DHAM YATRA

†2271. SHRI RAJAN VICHARE:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the huge number of pilgrims undertaking Char Dham Yatra everyday are experiencing extreme difficulties in the mid-way like shortage of diesel-petrol in Badrinath-Hemkund road and non-availability of cash in the ATMs of most of the Banks enroute Joshimath;**
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove the difficulties faced by the pilgrims;**
- (c) the additional facilities proposed to be made available to pilgrims by the Government for this year's Char Dham Yatra to make the pilgrimage more comfortable;**
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and**
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR TOURISM (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)**

(a) & (b): As per the information received from the Government of Uttarakhand at present there is neither shortage of diesel-petrol in Haridwar-Badrinath-Hemkund road, nor shortage of cash in Yatra route. Sufficient cash is available for ATM replenishment in the Yatra route branches. Earlier in the first week of June, due to pressure of huge number of pilgrims coming to Somwati Amavasya Snan and Eid holiday, Tankers got stuck in the traffic jam in the route, so shortage of petrol-diesel was experienced.

State Government immediately took remedial actions. Extra tankers were sent to the petrol pumps along the Yatra route. Sufficient stock of petrol-diesel for 2-3 days was supplied to the petrol pumps. Oil depots were made working during all holidays in the month of June 2019. Everyday monitoring was done during that period and as a result within 2-3 days time normal supply of petrol-diesel got restored.

(c) & (d): Various facilities are being provided to the pilgrims coming for this year's Chardham yatra. For making pilgrimage more comfortable helicopter service is available for Kedarnath, Doli's ponies are available in the trek routes of Kedarnath and Yamunotri Dham. Arrangement for sufficient number of buses, taxis medical relief posts, permanent & temporary toilets, drinking water facility etc have been made available at various locations of the Chardham yatra route. Photometric registration of the pilgrims coming for Chardham & Hemkund Yatra is being done at ten different places in the route. Online registrations facility is available through website & mobile app mode. For facilitating pilgrims Char Dham yatra control room is established in Tourism Headquarter Dehradun.

(e): Does not arise.
