

PANEL TO INVESTIGATE RAMBAN TUNNEL COLLAPSE

Relevant for: Environment | Topic: Disaster and disaster management

The Centre has constituted a committee of three independent experts to investigate the reasons for the recent collapse of a part of an under-construction tunnel in Ramban on Jammu-Srinagar highway and suggest remedial measures.

The state-owned National Highways Authority of India has already initiated a process to handle such emergency situations and is taking all possible measures to avoid such incidents in future, an official statement said on Sunday.

According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways office order, Professor J.T. Sahu of the IIT, Delhi will be the chairman of the committee, and it will submit the report within 10 days.

According to the official statement, the stretch between Digdole and Khooni Nallah of the Ramban Banihal section is prone to frequent landslip and shooting stones due to fragile geology.

Those whose life could not be saved are being given workman compensation and an additional *ex gratia* of Rs. 2 lakh by EPC contractor which amounts to at least Rs. 15 lakh.

It is yet to be determined whether the incident occurred due to work being executed or natural reasons.

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