

7% of flood victims identified, says Nepal

New Delhi: Nepali authorities said on Wednesday that only about 7 per cent of the bodies recovered after the devastating floods have been identified, underscoring the scale of the work involved in helping thousands of families find out the fate of loved ones.

Weeks after the torrent of mud, rocks and water was unleashed by a glacial collapse, relatives continue to seek answers from authorities as hopes of finding survivors fade.

About 5,200 people remain missing, including 636 foreigners, after the disaster swept through mountain communities and hydropower sites, killing at least 1,399 people, Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority said in an emailed statement to Reuters.

The agency said it collected DNA samples from 1,206 bodies and 1,889 samples from family members of the missing.

Despite that, overall only 105 bodies have been identified and handed to family members, it added.

Authorities have deployed



Army personnel recover a body from a tunnel of the Chilime Hydropower Project in Rasuwa, Nepal, on Wednesday. (PTI)

thermal drones and helicopters in the search and brought in specialists to rescue workers trapped in tunnels.

The search for the missing has led to a few remarkable rescues of those trapped in the tunnels of Nepal's hydropower plants.

But the once regular flow of information about the rescue effort has slowed, families

of foreign nationals said.

"Narrow airspace, difficult geographical mountainous terrain and scale of debris deposited are the major challenges on locating the missing," the department said.

It added that it was providing regular updates to embassies and families through direct and indirect channels.

Reuters