

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1408**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 12TH DECEMBER, 2023/ AGRAHAYANA 21, 1945
(SAKA)**

NATURAL DISASTERS

1408. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any record of the total number of deaths of Women and Sexual Gender Minorities caused by natural disasters including floods, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Disaster Management Act of 2005 takes cognizance of the unique vulnerabilities and specific needs of Women and Sexual Gender minorities during the process of relief and rehabilitation;

(c) if so, the details of the appropriate steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Annual Report by the said Ministry considers protection from disasters and gender-sensitive rehabilitation as a component of the section on Women Safety; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) to (e) The record of the total number of deaths, including that of Women and Sexual Gender Minorities caused by natural disasters, including floods is not maintained by this Ministry centrally, since execution of rescue measures and assessing loss of human lives on the ground is the responsibility of the State concerned.

One of the objectives of the National Policy on Disaster Management 2009 is to ensure the efficient response and relief with a caring approach towards the needs of the vulnerable sections of the society. The National Policy on Disaster Management has addressed the issues of vulnerable groups at many places including Preamble, Approach and Objectives, Response & Reconstruction and Recovery. Further, the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) 2019 has also addressed the issues pertaining to groups with higher vulnerabilities like gender based, children, weaker and marginalized communities, age related and for disabled persons.

Important actions taken by the Government of India and the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) with regard to the issues related to vulnerable sections of the society, including gender based, in its Plan, Policy and National Guidelines on various disasters are as under:-

1. National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM), 2009:-

- i. In the preamble of the Policy itself, special focus has been indicated for women.**
- ii. Women issues and their participation have been addressed in other chapters of the Policy as well, e.g., in chapters on institutional and legal arrangements, disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, reconstruction and recovery etc.**

Policy also has a provision for participation of women in State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs).

- 2. National Disaster Management Guidelines issued by NDMA - In different National Guidelines issued by NDMA for management of different disasters and other related issues, women concerns have been widely addressed.**
- 3. National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP), 2019:-**
 - i. NDMP 2019 has a new dedicated chapter on Social Inclusion (Chapter-4) focusing on inclusiveness of DRR for more vulnerable sections. In this chapter Gender issues in DRR have been prominently addressed focusing on women.**
 - ii. Section 4.2 of NDMP 2019 (in the chapter on Social Inclusion) focuses on Gender Perspective and DRR. Its sub-sections focus on Gender Based Vulnerabilities (4.2.1) and Sexual and Gender Minorities (4.2.2) addressing issues of women as well as transgender.**
 - iii. With the objective of mainstreaming gender perspective in the Disaster Management plan, a responsibility framework (Sec 4.8) has also been provided in Chapter on Social Inclusion which delineates roles and responsibilities of Central and State Government agencies.**

- iv. In addition to a dedicated chapter, focusing on more vulnerable groups including women, the Plan has addressed women and gender issues extensively in different chapters of the Plan.**
- v. Prime Minister's 10 point agenda on DRR, enunciated during AMCDRR 2016 has special focus on women's role in its point no. 3 - "Women's leadership and greater involvement should be central to disaster risk management". The PM 10 Point agenda has also been one of the guiding forces behind the development of the NDMP 2019.**
