

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:160

ANSWERED ON:20.02.2001

FUTURISTIC DISASTER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

PUTTASWAMY GOWDA;RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY;UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU;VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have not earmarked any budgetary allocation for the study of seismology in the country
- (b) if so, the allocation made during 2000-2001 for the study of seismology in the country and if not the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of earthquake risk evaluation centres in the country, state-wise, location wise;
- (d) the future plan of the Government to establish such centres in the country, State-wise and location-wise;
- (e) whether the National Capital region is vulnerable to seismic activity;
- (f) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (g) whether the Government have developed any technology for reducing the vulnerability of construction in the earthquake prone areas;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the action being taken to educate the people on the safety measures and the development of futuristic disaster management system?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a)&(b): Sir, the Department of Science & Technology has an ongoing programme to promote R&D efforts in the field of seismology and related aspects in the country. A budget allocation of Rs. 7.25 crores has been earmarked for the year 2000-2001 for this purpose. Apart from this various agencies/institutions such as IMD, GSI and NGRI also support seismological studies within their plan allocations.

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(c)&(d): The Department of Science & Technology had constituted a Task Force headed by Prof. V.K. Gaur to work out modalities for setting up of an Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre (EREC) in the northern region in May, 1999. The report submitted by the Task Force was considered by the Committee of Secretaries at its meeting held on September 19, 2000. It was recommended to set up EREC initially in IMD. Preparatory action on this has been initiated. Currently there are no plans to set up such Centres State-wise.

(e)&(f) : The National Capital Region falls in seismic Zone-IV as per the seismic zoning map prepared by the Bureau of Indian Standards. According to this classification the region is broadly associated with earthquakes of intensity VIII on modified mercalli intensity scale.

(g)&(h): Yes, Sir. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published guidelines/criteria for construction of earthquake resistant structures.

(i). The primary role for educating people on safety matters and other aspects of disaster management is that of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, which is the nodal agency for all aspects of disaster management. However, on their part the Department of Science & Technology, IMD, the University of Roorkee and Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) among others have published & distributed material on various aspects of earthquake related disasters, including safety measures in construction of buildings, retro-fitting of existing structures etc. for improving general awareness.