

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6004
ANSWERED ON:26.04.2001
EARTHQUAKE SINCE INDEPENDENCE
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of times when major earthquake situations were faced by the country since independence;
- (b) the number of lives lost in earthquakes, since independence, earthquake-wise;
- (c) whether the Government have constituted committees from time to time to suggest precautionary measures and safety measures;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures suggested by the committee; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government on the basis of suggestions made by the committee?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) & (b): The details of damaging earthquakes that have occurred in India since Independence, as reported by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the damage to life based on available information, is at Annexure-I

About 13 lakh houses/huts have been destroyed/damaged in the earthquake on 26.1.2001.

(c) to (e): No scientific method is available today anywhere in the world to predict an earthquake with reasonable degree of accuracy in space, time and magnitude. As prediction of earthquake is not possible, there is need to take preparatory measures like earthquake resistant constructions, adoption of building Codes/Guidelines/standards, retrofitting, public education and community awareness.

State Governments have been requested by the concerned agencies for taking necessary preparatory measures in the earthquake vulnerable areas. Vulnerability atlas for the country as well as State-wise has also been brought out with regard to earthquake, cyclone and flood disasters. States falling in seismic zones 4 & 5 have been requested to update their Contingency Action Plan, in the context of recent earthquake of Gujarat, and initiate necessary measures with emphasis on preparedness and mitigation.

In the event of earthquake of Gujarat, a National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister having the representatives of the Presidents of the National and State level Political Parties. The National Committee will inter-alia suggest the necessary institutional and legislative measures needed for an effective and long term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in the future.

ANNEXURE-I

List of some major earthquakes in India and its neighborhood

Date Epicenter Location Magnitude Deaths

Lat (N) Long (E)

1950	Aug 15	28.5 96.7	Arunachal Pradesh-China Border	8.5	1500
1956	Jul 21	23.3 70.0	Anjar, Gujarat	7.0	Hundreds
1967	Dec 10	17.37 73.75	Koyna, Maharashtra	6.5	200
1975	Jan 19	32.38 78.49	Kinnaur, HP	6.2	
1988	Aug 06	25.13 95.15	Manipur - Myanmar Border	6.6	
1988	Aug 21	26.72 86.63	Bihar-Nepal Border	6.4	1003

1991	Oct	20	30.75	78.86	Uttarkashi, Uttranchal	6.6	715
1993	Sep	30	18.07	76.62	Latur-Osmanabad, Maharashtra	6.3	7928
1997	May	22	23.08	80.06	Jabalpur, MP	6.0	38
1999	Mar	29	30.41	79.42	Chamoli, Uttranchal	6.8	106
2001	Jan	26	23.6	69.8	Kutch - Bhuj	6.9	20,000