

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:194

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2007

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the main functions of Department of Disaster Management and Civil Defence;
- (b) the activities and tasks carried out by the Department during the last two years;
- (c) whether the Government is introducing or has introduced any law to mitigate impact of disasters;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the present position thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a): There is no separate Department of Disaster Management and Civil Defence in the Government of India. At the national level, the nodal responsibility for Disaster Management (except drought, hailstorm and pest-attack) and Civil Defence vests with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Ministry is responsible for the institutional and legislative framework for Disaster Management and Civil Defence at the national level. The Ministry supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing requisite logistic and financial support.

(b): The activities and tasks carried out by the Disaster Management Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs during the last two years mainly include :

Monitoring and coordinating response to major disasters like the Tsunami of 26th December, 2004, the earthquake of 8th October, 2005 in J&K, the floods in various States during the monsoon seasons in 2005 and 2006, and arranging/ coordinating logistic and financial support for relief and rehabilitation.

Drafting of a Central legislation on disaster management which was eventually enacted as the Disaster Management Act, 2005 on 23rd December, 2005.

Framing of Rules for the purpose of implementation of different provisions of the Act.

Establishment of a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Act.

Constitution of National Executive Committee (NEC) as per the provisions of the Act and organization of its meeting.

Constitution of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) as per the provisions of the Act.

Financial support to various Administrative Training Institutes etc. at the State level for conducting training and capacity building activities.

Training and equipping the battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

Carrying out awareness generation through print and electronic media.

Organization of various training programmes/ workshops/ seminars through the NIDM.

Establishment of a SAARC Disaster Management Centre at NIDM.

Implementation of a Disaster Risk Management Project in 169 Districts in 17 multi-hazard prone States with external assistance from UNDP, etc.

Implementation of National Programmes for Capacity Building of Engineers and Architects in Earthquake Risk Management.

Establishment of a National Emergency Operations Centre in the Ministry and follow up with States for establishing State/ District level Emergency Operation Centres.

Initiating measures for strengthening the emergency communication system.

Assessment of requirements for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the States/UTs affected by major disasters.

Reimbursement of part of the expenditure incurred by the State Governments on Civil Defence and Home Guards.

(c) to (e): The Disaster Management Act, 2005 was enacted on 23rd December, 2005 and notified on 26th December, 2005. It provides for an institutional mechanism for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of policies and plans for disaster management, ensuring measures by various wings of the Government for prevention and mitigation of disasters and for undertaking a holistic, coordinated and prompt response to any disaster situation. The Act inter-alia provides for the setting up of Disaster Management Authorities at the National, State and District levels, constitution of National Executive Committee (NEC), establishment of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and establishment of disaster response and mitigation funds at the National, State and District levels. The Government has already established a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), a NEC and a NIDM. Training and equipping of the earmarked battalions of various Central Para-

Military Forces to constitute a National Disaster Response Force has been taken up.