

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1508
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2006
TSUNAMI WARNING
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware the series of Tsunami/Earthquake struck in Indonesia recently ;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has issued warning to the citizens living in the coastal area in the country in the wake of the experience of 2004 Tsunami ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the precautionary measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government is setting up an Early Warning System for Tsunami & Storm Surges in Indian Ocean. As a first step, pending the commissioning of Early Warning system for Tsunami and Storm Surges in Indian Ocean, an Interim Tsunami Warning Centre (ITWC) has been made operational at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services

(INCOIS), Hyderabad, an autonomous Institution under the Ministry of Earth sciences. This Centre receives earthquake information from the India Meteorological Department, United States Geological Survey, as well as Tsunami advisories from Japan Meteorological Agency, Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. Data from the tide gauges installed are received at INCOIS that is used to confirm the generation and arrival of a Tsunami. Interim Tsunami Warning Centre (ITWC) is operational round the clock (24x7 basis) and generates advisories for communication to Ministry of Home Affairs.

For the 17th July 2006 earthquake that generated tsunami in parts of Indonesian coast, water level observations were made. No threat of tsunami was perceived for Indian coasts and hence no warning was considered to be issued.