

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:340

ANSWERED ON:02.03.2005

ASSISTANCE TO TSUNAMI AFFECTED COUNTRIES

Choudhary Smt. Anuradha; Das Gupta Shri Gurudas; Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand; Kamat Shri Gurudas; Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir; Munshiram Shri ; Murmu Shri Hemlal; Panda Shri Prabodh; Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao; Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether India participated in the International Conference held in Jakarta to provide assistance to countries affected by Tsunami;
- (b) if so, the details of discussions held in the said conference;
- (c) whether India has turned down requests of financial assistance from foreign countries in this regard;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether any resolution to provide more time for repayment of loans by these affected countries was passed in the said conference;
- (f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (g) the contribution made by India in the core coordination group with UN to provide relief and rehabilitation to the victims of such natural calamities?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E AHAMED)

- (a) Yes. India participated in the Special Meeting of Leaders convened by ASEAN in the aftermath of the earthquake and Tsunami which was held in Jakarta on January 6, 2005.
- (b) The meeting discussed matters relating to emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction as well as prevention and mitigation. A `Declaration on Action to Strengthen Emergency Relief, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Prevention` was adopted by the meeting.
- (c)&(d) Government had during the relief stage stated that, while it deeply appreciates the offers of assistance from foreign governments and international agencies, it had the capabilities and resources to deal with the aftermath of the disaster with its own national effort. Taking into account the requirements emerging in the rehabilitation and reconstruction phase, Government decided to approach international and multilateral agencies for assistance. Bilateral donors were also informed that they could channelize their assistance through these agencies.
- (e)&(f) The Declaration adopted by the meeting held in Jakarta, in which India participated, welcomed the initiative of several countries to have a moratorium of payments of the external debt of the affected countries.
- (g) In the immediate aftermath of the Tsunami disaster, India cooperated with number of countries to initiate a quick response to the disaster by mobilizing the coordinated resources of the countries, which had major capabilities and assets available in the area.