

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3036
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2011
AMENDMENT IN NORMS OF SDRF AND NDRF
Meghwal Shri Arjun Ram

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has amended/revised the norms for assistance under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) in order to provide compensation for the damages caused by natural calamity/inclement weather conditions of a severe nature on the lines of global trends;
- (b) if so, the details of the notified natural calamities and the norms for assistance thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government has received suggestions for inclusion of sea erosion, cold/heat wave, frost and lightning in the list of natural calamities under the said funds; and
- (d) if so, the follow-up action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) & (b): It has generally been a practice to review and revise the items & norms of assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/ now SDRF and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF)/ now NDRF after the Award of successive Finance Commissions are accepted by the Government. The last such revisions were made in June 2007 and July 2009, after the Award of the Twelfth Finance Commission (2005-10).

These items & norms are revised based on the recommendations of the Expert Group constituted by the Government of India. The Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted an Expert Group to review the norms which has submitted its report. The recommendations of the expert group are now being finalized in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Thirteenth Finance Commission has recommended natural calamities such as avalanches, cyclone, cloud burst, drought, earthquake, Tsunami, fire, flood, hailstorm, landslide and pest attack, for relief assistance and the same has been accepted by the Government of India. The financial assistance is towards relief & not for compensation of loss. The guidelines relating to both the funds have been issued by the Government of India on 28th September 2010. These guidelines are available on the Ministry of Home Affairs website; www.ndmindia.nic.in.

(c) & (d): Yes, Madam. The issue of inclusion of specific calamities in the list of identified natural calamities for the purpose of incurring expenditure from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been deliberated by the successive Finance Commissions. The 13th Finance Commission (for the period 2010-15), have also inter-alia considered the proposal of State Government for inclusion of certain proposed new calamities including sea erosion, cold/heat wave, frost and lightning in the notified list of natural calamities entitled for funding under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). However the Commission has not recommended inclusion of these calamities in the existing list of natural calamities qualifying for assistance from CRF/ SDRF and NCCF/ NDRF.

The Government of India has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to look into the issue of inclusion of cold wave/frost as an eligible calamity for relief under NDRF/SDRF on 21st February 2011.