

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:331
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2011
SCIENTIFIC METHOD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES
Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes compulsory adoption of scientific method for construction of houses in the urban and rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be introduced across the country ;
- (c) whether the houses constructed with this method will be earthquake resistant ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HOUSING & URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA)

(a) to (e): Different typology, materials and construction practices are used for construction of houses in urban and rural areas of different regions of the country. Some practices are established though tradition.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) have developed Indian Standards and National Building Code (NBC) on different materials, planning, design and construction practices of buildings. The National Building Code lays down a set of minimum provisions designed to protect the safety of the public with regard to structural sufficiency, fire hazards and health aspect of buildings.

The NBC also covers aspect of administrative regulations, development control rules and general building requirements; fire protections requirements; stipulations regarding materials and structural design; rules for design of electrical installations, lighting, air conditioning and lifts; regulation for ventilation, acoustics and plumping services, such as, water supply, drainage, sanitation and gas supply; measures to ensure safety of workers and public during construction; and rules for erection of signs and outdoor display structures.

The provisions of NBC are intended to serve as a model for adoption by Public Works Departments and other government construction departments, local bodies and other construction agencies.

State Governments through adequate provisions in Development Control Rules and Building Byelaws can make provisions of National Building Code mandatory.

Since the Housing activity is a state subject, it is upto State Governments to enforce compulsory adoption of these construction practices.

National Building Code, inter alia, covers design and construction of earthquake resistant buildings of different types in various zones including earthen and low masonry building.