

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3288
ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011
NATURAL DISASTERS
Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is ranked second in the world for natural disasters as per a report of the United Nations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has worked out/proposes to work out an effective action plan to control loss of lives and property in the event of any kind of disaster;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action plan of the Government to deal with any nuclear disaster in the country?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Yes, Madam. A UN official had made a statement saying India ranked second in the world. The ranking is based on the number of natural disasters reported in India during 2010. The said statement is based on the International data base on disaster being maintained by the Centre for epidemiology on disaster supported by World Health Organization.

As per the Disaster Management Act 2005, the Central Government has constituted the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) with the responsibility for laying down the policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster managements. NDMA has already released 25 guidelines on natural as well as manmade disasters and also for preparation of State Disaster Management Plans. National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM) has been issued which covers all aspects of disaster management.

NDMA has inter-alia released guidelines on management of Nuclear and Radiological emergencies. Radiation Emergency Response Plan is already in place for responding to radiation emergencies.

Four Battalions of National Disaster Response Force have been trained in dealing with the Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear disasters. A separate Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for response limited to terrorist attacks involving use of radioactive materials have also been formulated and circulated to all stakeholders including States/ Union Territories.

All these measures are expected to mitigate and reduce, control the adverse impact of natural and manmade disasters including nuclear disasters in the country.