GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HOME AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3332 ANSWERED ON:23.08.2011 STRATEGY TO DEAL WITH PERENNIAL FLOODS Badal Harsimrat Kaur; Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment to quantify the loss caused due to perennial floods in various parts of the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and year-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;
- (c) the precautionary measures that the Government has undertaken to deal with these perennial floods and for relief and rehabilitation;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any long term strategy in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes Madam.

The details of States affected by the floods and the assessment of loss, as reported by the State Governments for the last three years and current year is given at Annexure.

(c) to (e): State Governments concerned are initially required to undertake relief operations in the wake of natural calamity out of the corpus of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) already placed at their disposal. In case of a calamity of 'severe nature' when available resources under the SDRF account are inadequate, additional assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) after following the laid down procedure which includes visit of Inter-Ministerial Central Team. The logistic support are provided to the States, where ever required by the Government of India which included deployment of aircraft, boats, specialist teams of Armed Forces, Central Para Military Forces and personnel of National Disaster Response Force, arrangement for relief material and essential commodities including medical stores, restoration of critical infrastructure facilities.

The State Governments are engaged in flood management work since the independence of the country. Upto the Tenth Five Year Plan, 45.6 million hectares of flood prone areas in the country had been provided a reasonable degree of protection. The Eleventh Five Year Plan envisages protecting an additional area of 2.18 million hectares. Management of water resources is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The schemes for Flood Control and Protection are therefore, to be planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The Government of India, under the aegis of Ministry of Water Resources has launched the "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" at a total cost of Rs.8000 crores for the 11th Plan period (2007-12).

All these measures are expected to mitigate and reduce the adverse impact of natural disasters including floods in the country.