

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:513
ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011
STUDY OF SEISMIC ZONES
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently analysed the data regarding seismic activity of low intensity recorded during each of the last three years;
- (b) if so, the seismic zones identified as a result thereof in the country;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to ensure that developmental projects including large dams, nuclear power plants and hydro power projects are not set up in the locations of high seismic zones; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH)

a)-d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO (a)to (d) OF STARRED QUESTION No. 513 REGARDING "STUDY OF SEISMIC ZONES" ASKED BY SHRI N. S. V.CHITTHAN FOR ANSWER ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2011

(a) Yes, Madam. Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) is the nodal agency for operating national seismological network in the country as per the needs from time to time. The seismicity is being monitored on regular basis including low intensity earthquakes.

(b) The seismic zoning map of India has been prepared by Bureau of Indian Standards IS 1893: 2002 which shows four seismic zones viz. Zone-II, Zone-III, Zone-IV and Zone-V is the most vulnerable zone. This seismic zoning map is periodically updated using newly acquired data.

(c) Considering the global advancements in the Geo-Technical Engineering and developments in the design, research and construction of dams, India is capable of executing development projects including construction of dam, Nuclear Power Plants and Hydro Power Projects that would withstand a seismic jolt through adequate safety measures.

Due action/steps have been taken by the Government from time to time as per the recommendations of the Dam Safety Organisation of the Central Water Commission for seismic monitoring of reservoirs such as Koyna and Warna in Maharashtra; Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisaillam in Andhra Pradesh and nuclear power sites of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL). A set of guidelines for inspection of dams following earthquakes have also been developed in respect of safe operation and maintenance of the existing dams/ reservoirs.

Details of safety requirements for Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) are specified in "code of practice on safety in nuclear power plant siting" and related "safety guides" evolved by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). Which are in a state of continuing review. The Prime Minister has ordered a comprehensive review of safety mechanisms in respect of nuclear power plants following the Tsunami in Japan.

(d) Does not arise.