

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2954
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2011
TSUNAMI WARNING SYSTEM
Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to convert Indian Early Tsunami Warning Centre into a regional service provider for providing alerts to all Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India proposes to join hands with other countries such as Indonesia, Australia etc., for early forecast of Tsunami;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether a hot line has since been established at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS); and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) Yes Madam.

(b) The Indian tsunami early warning centre (ITEWC) is equipped with world-class computational, communication and technical support facilities and is considered as one of the most modern tsunami warning centres as on date. The instrumentation of the ITEWC is built in a way to detect tsunamis originating from both identified tsunamigenic sources in the Indian Ocean and to become world class in respect of the quality of the warning service with minimal false alarm scenario generation possibility.

Through critical monitoring and performance evaluation of the services provided by the ITEWC over the Indian Ocean, the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWS) of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Economic Social and Cultural Organization (IOC/UNESCO) has accepted the offer of India to convert/upgrade ITEWC to a status of Regional Tsunami Service Provider (RTSP).

Starting from July 2008, India has been providing IOC benchmarked Level-1 tsunami regional service. Subsequently, from May 2011, India started rendering Level-2 tsunami regional service on trial basis to the entire Indian Ocean rim countries. After the Indian Ocean Tsunami drill scheduled for 12th October, 2011, India shall start providing the tsunami warning service bulletins to the Indian Ocean Rim Countries on an operational basis.

The performance of the ITEWC will then be subjected for continuous scrutiny by an RTSP Task Team duly constituted by the ICG/IOTWS.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) India is working together with Indonesia and Australia as well as all other Indian Ocean rim countries as part of the ICG/IOTWS arrangements to provide tsunami early warning services for the entire Indian Ocean Region.

(e) Yes Madam.

(f) INCOIS is in the process of establishing a hotline between Police Control Room in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and INCOIS for quick dissemination of Tsunami bulletins.