

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6385

ANSWERED ON:15.05.2012

NATURAL CALAMITIES

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has recently made any assessment of the annual losses caused to the country in monetary terms due to various natural calamities like cyclonic storms/flash floods/floods/ land slides/cloud bursts/hailstorms and earthquakes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive policy to deal with various natural calamities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the losses due to natural calamities?

Answer

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

(a): No Madam,

(b): Does not arise.

(c) to (e): The following measures have been taken by the Government of India for effective disaster management:-

In order to strengthen the existing disaster management system, has enacted and notified Disaster Management Act, 2005 on December 26, 2005 to improve and provide for institutional mechanisms for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of the disaster management plans, ensuring measures by various wings of Government for prevention and for mitigating the effects of disasters as well as for undertaking a holistic, coordinated, and prompt response to any disaster situation.

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 16

guidelines and 10 reports 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.

Similarly State Disaster Management Authority and District disaster Management Authority have been set up in the country.

The institutional mechanism of the State Government has been networked with the early warning systems and also with the National Emergency Operation Centre for receiving and dissemination of alerts/advisories/information relating to different natural calamities.

Suitable financial arrangements to meet emergent requirements in disaster situations have been made and the State Disaster Response fund has been constituted for each of the State in the country.

Grant-in-aid for capacity building for disaster response has been allocated to the States for the period 2010-15.

National disaster Response Force (NDRF) which is a specialized Force to deal with the relief and rescue activities during disasters has been constituted and located at different parts of the country for prompt relief and rescue purposes.

Regular mock drills are being organized by the National Disaster Management Authority and the National Disaster Response Force to sensitize and bring awareness to the stakeholders about the natural disasters.

Government of India is implementing National cyclone risk Mitigation Scheme and National School Safety programme – a pilot project. Both these schemes contain structural and non-structural measures to minimize the losses.

All these steps/ measures are expected to improve the existing disaster management practices and reduce the losses & adverse impact of natural calamities in the country.