GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HOME AFFAIRS LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1864 ANSWERED ON:01.12.2009 MEASURES AGAINST CHEMICAL WARFARE Paranipe Shri Anand Prakash

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has brought out certain guidelines to meet the challenges posed by chemical and biological warfare;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard including educating the people?

Answer

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

- (a): National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has released guidelines on Biological Disasters and Chemical (Terrorism) Disasters including the Chemical Warfare Agents for management of such eventualities in the country.
- (b): The guidelines on management of Chemical (Terrorism) Disasters are intended to focus on all aspects of the disaster management cycle including the prevention aspects, like surveillance and intelligence, mitigation of direct and indirect risks, preparedness in terms of capacity development of human resource, infrastructure development for response as well as relief, rehabilitation and recovery.

The guidelines on management of Biological Disasters focuses on all aspects of Biological Disaster Management including Bioterrorism, with a focus on prevention, mitigation, preparedness, medical response and relief.

Above guidelines shall form the basis for the Ministries and Departments concerned, at the Centre and State level to evolve programmes and measures in their respective Disaster Management Plans.

(c): Guidelines have been circulated to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, concerned Central Ministries, Departments and other stakeholders. Also, these Guidelines have been placed on the website of National Disaster Management Authority (www.ndma.gov.in) for wide circulation.

Number of Mock Exercises have also been carried out for various scenarios. NDMA have also initiated action with the nodal Ministries and the Departments of the States for capacity development.