

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1796
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
RISKS FROM ASTEROID HITS
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Washington based Indian scientist Shri Amitabha Ghosh has warned that there are millions of small rocks that might hit the Earth any time anywhere; and

(b) if so, the possible precautionary measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (S. JAIPAL REDDY)

(a) Madam, it is known to scientific community that there are several million asteroids in the solar system and some of them are capable of striking the Earth. Although the probability of the Earth being struck by a large asteroid is extremely small, the consequences of such a collision can be catastrophic.

(b) It is well recognized that being a global issue, all countries together have to work out mitigation plan from asteroid hit to earth. The Department of Space is participating in various forums like Inter-agency space debris coordination committee, Planetary Defense conference etc., to address the issues and work out the mitigation plan. Various technical options considered and evaluated by international community to keep away asteroids from the Earth are Kinetic Impact, Gravity Tractor, Solar Concentrator, Laser Deflection and Nuclear Explosion.