

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:365

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2013

DECLARATION AS NATIONAL CALAMITY

Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Mohan Shri P. C.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has fixed any norms for declaring a calamity of severe nature striking the country as a 'National Calamity' and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the recent natural calamity in Uttarakhand fulfils the criterion of a 'National Calamity';
- (c) if so, the reasons for not declaring it as a National Calamity;
- (d) whether the Government provides any special assistance to the affected States during a National Calamity; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including special assistance to Uttarakhand in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): With regard to declaring a calamity of severe nature as national calamity, it is informed that there is no provision to declare a natural disaster as a 'national disaster' in the guidelines. However, Government of India adjudges a calamity of 'severe nature' on case-to-case basis taking into account inter-alia the intensity and magnitude of the calamity, level of relief assistance, capacity of the State Government to tackle the problem, the alternatives and flexibility available within the plan to provide succor and relief etc. The priority is immediate relief and response assistance in the context of a natural calamity. As such there is no fixed prescribed norms. However, for calamity of a 'severe nature', additional assistance is also considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), after

following the established procedure. Keeping in view of the intensity & magnitude of Flash flood/ landslide/ cloudburst of June 2013 in Uttarakhand, it has been adjudged a calamity of a 'severe nature' for all practical purposes.

(d) & (e): the State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for undertaking necessary rescue & relief measures in the wake of natural disasters. For this purpose, a State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted with an allocated amount for each State. The State Governments are expected to take relief measures of immediate nature to the victims of notified natural calamities including flood, landslides and cloudburst, out of the funds available in the SDRF in accordance with the approved items & norms of assistance. Additional expenditure, if any, incurred over and above or on other than approved items/ norms, is required to be met by the States from their own resources and not from SDRF/NDRF. The Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 145 crore from State Disaster response Fund (SDRF) to the State on 20.6.2013 to enable relief and restoration works. In addition, GOI has released an amount of Rs. 250 crore on an 'on account' basis from the National disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the State Government on 19th July, 2013.