

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:857
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2013
INCLUSION IN LIST OF NOTIFIED CALAMITIES
Antony Shri Anto;Sivasami Shri C.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to include lightning and coastal erosion in the list of notified natural calamity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has received representations from any State Government in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The issue of inclusion of any calamity in the list of notified natural calamities has traditionally been considered by the successive Finance Commissions. Presently, the natural calamities identified for the purpose of relief assistance are cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst, pest attack and cold-wave/ frost. As for as the events of `lightning` and `coastal erosion` are concerned, these, are not included in the list of eligible calamities for assistance from SDRF/ NDRF. As such, the concerned State Governments are required to provide relief from their own resources, to the people affected due to lightning and coastal erosion as per their relief codes/ manual.

However, on demand of several States, a Group of Ministers (GoM) has been constituted by the Government of India for the said purpose. In its meeting held on 21st August 2013, the GOM considered the matter and inter alia decided that State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/ National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), which is meant for immediate response, could not be an appropriate means to address the concern of 'erosion'. The issue of river bank erosion and sea-erosion however are definitely important one, as these have been affecting quite a large number of villages, The State Governments are therefore required that they take up for assistance from existing mitigation programmes like Flood Management Programme of the Ministry of Water Resources, Gal etc.