

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1291
ANSWERED ON:14.07.2009
FLOOD RELIEF TO BIHAR
Azad Shri Kirti (Jha);Kumar Shri Vishwa Mohan

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the devastating flood caused by Kosi river in the State of Bihar was declared as a national calamity;
- (b) if so, the amount requested by the State Government for relief and rehabilitation alongwith the assistance given to the State by Government thereon;
- (c) whether there is any provision to ask the State Governments to repay the relief amount released by the Union Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Financial assistance in the wake of notified natural Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), corpus of which is shared between Govt. of India and the State Govt. in the ratio of 75:25. In case the requirement of funds for relief operations in the event of a calamity of a severe nature is more than the fund available in CRF account, additional assistance is considered from National Calamity Contingency Fund, (NCCF), which is 100% funded by the Govt. of India. As such in case of a calamity of 'Severe nature', the assistance to the concerned State Govt. is provided at national level in the form of logistic and financial support in order to meet the situation effectively. There is no provision in the Schemes of CRF/NCCF for declaring a calamity as a "National Calamity".

The Govt. of Bihar in the revised requirement of fund had requested Rs. 11683.11 crore in the wake of Kosi flood 2008, comprising Rs. 3394.43 crore for items as per extant norms, Rs. 4717.73 crore as per higher scale than extant norms and Rs. 3570.95 crore for items which are not covered under the extant norms. An amount of Rs. 497.35 crore has been approved from NCCF subject to the adjustment of 75 % balance available in the CRF account of the State for the instant calamity.

In addition, an amount of Rs. 117.21 crore has been recommended by HLC as additional financial assistance over and above the extant norms for the families in dire need of immediate sustenance as well as operation of relief camps for the period over and above specified in the CRF norms. Further Rs. 2273.15 crore has also been allocated by concerned Central Ministries for repair, reconstruction/ rehabilitation in their respective sectors in the context of Kosi flood 2008.

(c) & (d): Keeping in view the magnitude of the situation caused by calamities of severe nature and pending the consideration of the memorandum of the State Govt. seeking additional financial assistance from NCCF, 'on account' releases are made to enable the concerned State to undertake relief operations in the affected areas. As per the normal financial mechanism, amounts identified as excess, against the 'on account' release from NCCF remain adjustable/recoverable.