

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2791

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2014

EARTHQUAKE INTENSITY

Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash;Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to establish an electronic system to measure intensity of earthquakes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the system is likely to benefit the forecast of earthquakes;
- (c) the time by which the system is likely to be established;
- (d) whether the Government has issued any guidelines specifically regarding construction of houses in earthquake prone areas; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) Ministry of Earth System Science- National Centre for Seismology (MoES-NCS) maintains a national seismological network consisting of 42 digital seismograph stations to measure earthquake magnitude and monitor earthquake activity in and around Indian region. Additionally, 78 new digital seismographs are likely to be installed during 2015-16.

(b) The ground motion data recorded by the instrument system are used for the estimation of magnitude and other earthquake parameters. To date, there is no proven scientific technique available anywhere in the world to forecast/predict the occurrence of earthquake with reasonable degree of accuracy with regard to space, time and magnitude.

(c) 42 digital seismograph stations are already in operation and 78 new are likely to be installed during 2015-16.

(d-e) Loss of life and damage to property due to earthquakes could be considerably reduced through proper planning and implementation of pre- and post-disaster preparedness and management strategies by respective State and Central Government agencies in a coordinated manner. Guidelines have also been published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) etc. for the design and construction of earthquake resistant structures to minimize the loss of life and damage to property caused by earthquakes (Annexure I). These guidelines are in wide circulation amongst the public and the administrative authorities responsible for the design and construction of earthquake resistant structures in earth- quake prone areas.

Ministry of Home Affairs is keen to see at least from now that all new buildings constructed under various National and State schemes should be made earthquake resistant (as per the Bureau of Indian Standards detailed at Annexure-II) in the first instant so that no new additions to the stock of existing unsafe buildings are made.