

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2428
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2015
UNESCO ASSISTANCE IN REDUCING DISASTER RISKS
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has signed a letter of intent with UNESCO for mutual co-operation in the field of reducing Disaster Risks and Capacity Building;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the likely benefits that might accrue on account of the above co-operation?

Answer

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

(a) Yes Madam.

(b-c) A letter of intent was signed with UNSCO for reducing disaster risks and capacity building in earth sciences on 24th November 2014 by the Earth System Science Organization - Ministry of Earth Sciences (ESSO-MoES). The areas of cooperation inter alia likely benefits include:

- I. effective exchange of products and information on natural hazards;
- II. generate scientific methods for capacity development programmes in GIS and remote sensing applications covering coastal and oceanic regions for scientists from related institutions;
- III. Build training courses for developing early warning systems for disaster risk reduction;
- IV. initiate training courses in Extended Continental Shelf issues, in order to assist African countries in making a submission to United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf;
- V. participate effectively in the Second International Indian Ocean Expedition
- VI. provide the enabling factors for INCOIS to be developed into a UNESCO Category 2 Centre; and
- VII. collaborate in the areas of common interest on mutual consent.