

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2304**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 9TH AUGUST, 2023/ SRAVANA 18, 1945 (SAKA)

STEPS TO STRENGTHEN NDRF AND ITS CAPABILITIES

2304 # SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has been taken by Government recently to strengthen the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and its potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any step has been taken by Government to constitute additional battalions of the NDRF; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) to (d): To strengthen the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in the country, Government of India had approved the raising of 04 additional battalions of NDRF, that has increased the number of NDRF battalions from 12 to 16. These battalions are strategically located as per vulnerability profile of the country to provide immediate response during disasters or threatening disaster situations.

In order to build and continuously upgrade the capacity of NDRF personnel and to provide them holistic training, NDRF Academy has been set up in Nagpur in 2018. Apart from it, strengthening of NDRF is monitored and reviewed by the Government at regular intervals in view of unforeseen disasters occurring in the country, which inter-alia include the following:

(i). An Umbrella Scheme namely “Infrastructure for Disaster Management” from 2021-22 to 2025-26 at a total financial outlay of Rs.949.81 crores, for infrastructure Development in NDRF Battalions, Regional Response Centres and NDRF Academy.

(ii). NDRF is equipped with state of art equipments to deal with various manmade and natural disaster situations.

(iii). Capacity building programmes of NDRF as well as of various stakeholders, including school safety programmes are undertaken to enhance preparedness of the community.

(iv). International workshops/ field exercises are undertaken by NDRF to acquaint the Force with the latest international standards. NDRF personnel are also nominated to participate in various international events i.e. training courses/seminars/workshops/exercises etc., which benefit NDRF personnel in upgrading their skills and learning about best practices in Disaster Management and gaining knowledge of sophisticated equipments & techniques being adopted globally.

(v). The Central Government is providing all support and assistance to the NDRF for upgrading the force capability by providing requisite approval for purchase of advanced equipments and machinery, as and when needed.
