

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1041**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4TH DECEMBER, 2024/ AGRAHAYANA 13, 1946
(SAKA)**

RECURRING DELAYS IN FUND RELEASE ASSISTANCE THROUGH NDRF

1041 SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for recurrent instances of delays in releasing disaster relief funds despite guidelines to do so within a month of receiving the Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) report;

(b) whether any measure is being considered to streamline and expedite the release of funds to States; and

(c) whether the Ministry is considering allowing the States greater discretion in managing funds from the SDRF to address localized needs more effectively, given the States are often primary responders in disastrous events?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As per the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM), the primary responsibility for disaster management including disbursement of relief assistance on ground level rests with the State Governments concerned. The Central Government provides requisite logistics and financial support to the efforts of the State Governments. The State Governments provide financial relief to the affected people in the event of 12 notified natural

disasters which includes floods and landslides, from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at its disposal, in accordance with approved items and norms of Government of India (GOI). However, in the event of disaster of a 'severe nature', additional financial assistance is extended from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure, which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT).

Prior to 19.08.2019, IMCT used to be deputed after the receipt of Memorandum from the State Government affected by a severe disaster. This Ministry had taken a significant decision on 19.08.2019 to depute an IMCT immediately in the aftermath of any natural calamity of severe nature, without waiting for the receipt of memorandum from the State Government, to visit the affected areas of States so as to have the first-hand assessment of the damages caused and the relief work carried out by State Administration. If required, the IMCT to revisit the State after submission of the Memorandum for detailed assessment of the damages and relief operations conducted. The IMCT prepare its report after receipt of a formal Memorandum from the State Government. The report of the IMCT is considered as per established procedure envisaged in the NDRF guidelines.

The allocation of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to the State is based on the recommendations of the successive Finance Commission, set up under Article 280 of the Constitution, from time-to-time. Further, the disbursal of funds from SDRF and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) is governed by the Guidelines and Items and Norms of assistance from SDRF and NDRF, which are framed in consultation with all stakeholders, including States and are available on the Ministry of Home Affairs website at <https://ndmindia.mha.gov.in/ndmi/viewUploadedDocument?uid=NEW2132> and <https://ndmindia.mha.gov.in/ndmi/viewUploadedDocument?uid=NEW2180>, respectively. States have the freedom to provide relief to the affected people during disasters as per these guidelines.

Further, as prescribed in the SDRF guidelines, State Government can use upto 10% of the annual allocation of the SDRF for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be disaster within the local context in the State and which are not included in the notified list of disasters.
