

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 567**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 4TH FEBRUARY, 2026/ MAGHA 15, 1947 (SAKA)

**STRENGTHENING DISASTER RESPONSE, PREPAREDNESS AND
REHABILITATION MECHANISMS**

567. SHRI I.S. INBADURAI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the initiatives undertaken to strengthen response, relief, early warning and preparedness measures for natural and man-made disasters across the country;

(b) whether Government has implemented measures to enhance capacity building, risk mitigation, community training and prevention mechanisms to reduce loss of life, property and economic disruption during disasters nationwide;

(c) whether Government proposes updating disaster-related legislation and policies to address emerging risks, ensure inter-agency coordination and improve timely decision-making between central, state and local authorities; and

(d) plans to establish new NDRF stations at Tirunelveli to save nearby coastal villages to ensure rapid response, preparedness and rehabilitation for vulnerable coastal populations?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): The primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the State Governments concerned. Central Government extends logistics and financial supports to the States to supplement their efforts in the wake of natural calamities of severe nature.

There are well established institutional mechanisms at the National, State and District levels in the country to develop appropriate preparedness and prompt response mechanisms for effective management of natural disasters.

Further, the Government has taken many initiatives in the field of disaster management to strengthen response, relief, early warning, preparedness, capacity building, community training etc. Some of such initiatives are as under:-

- 1. The National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) was framed and issued, for the first time, in the year 2016. The same was revised in 2019. The revised NDMP brings together all sectors, ministries and departments at the Central and State level as well as district level functionaries and defines their respective roles and responsibilities in disaster risk reduction.**
- 2. Since its enactment, Disaster Management Act, 2005 was amended for the first time in the year 2025. The amendments strengthened the institutional framework, financial mechanisms, urban disaster management and accountability structures. The amendments bring more clarity and convergence in the roles of Authorities and Committees working in the field of disaster management.**

- 3. The 'Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services' in the states, was launched, for the first time by the Government on 04.07.2022 with a financial outlay of Rs 5,000 crore, to strengthen the fire services in the country.**
- 4. The Central Government has developed a strong and robust early warning system to predict various natural disasters like cyclone, floods, Tsunami, etc., so that post disaster response and recovery can be expedited in order to reduce the loss of life and property. Alerts for cyclones are now sent 7 days in advance against 5 days sent previously.**
- 5. Early warning systems have been established in the coastal states under the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP), which has proved very helpful in disseminating warnings to the coastal community during recent cyclones.**
- 6. By using Common Alerting Protocol based Integrated Alert System (CAP), various dissemination mediums, viz., SMS, TV, Radio, Indian Railways, Coastal Siren and through integration of all warning agencies, the dissemination of geo-targeted early warnings/alerts**

related to disasters, has been initiated to citizens of India in all 36 States/UTs. More than 12000 crore alerts have been broadcasted so far using this system.

7. In order to implement Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of 'single emergency number for all emergencies across the country', the project "Extension of Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)" has been launched with the existing single number "112", which will also troubleshoot problems related to emergency calls for disasters.

8. The number of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) battalions has been increased from 10 to 16, which are strategically deployed based upon the vulnerability profile in the country, and to take immediate disaster specific action.

9. Increase in financial allocation and establishment of new funds:

a. As per recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, an amount of Rs. 1,60,153 crore for the State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) and Rs. 68,463 crore for the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), has been allocated for the period 2021-26.

- b. Central Government has increased the allocation of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) during 2021-26 by 109 per cent, i.e., Rs. 1,28,122 crore as compared to Rs. 61,220 crore during the period 2015-20. Further, the Central Government has also allocated Rs. 54,770 crore under NDRF for the period of 2021-26.**
- c. Mitigation funds namely State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) and National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) has been set-up, for the first time. An amount of Rs. 32,031 crore under SDMF and an amount of Rs. 13,693 crore under NDMF has been allocated during the award period of 2021-22 to 2025-26.**
- 10. To strengthen disaster preparedness and response capacity at local level in the country, the Government has focused on community participation through the following initiatives:**
- a. The Aapda Mitra scheme has been implemented in which 1,00,000 community volunteers have been trained for disaster recovery in 350 multi-hazard disaster prone districts covering all States/UTs.**
- b. The Government has now launched a Scheme titled 'Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme' with a financial outlay of Rs. 469.53 Crore for training of around 2,37,000 community volunteers including volunteers of NCC, NSS, NYKS and BS&G.**

11. The Government has also focused on the mitigation aspect of disaster management cycle. In this respect, the various mitigation programmes have been approved from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) for implementation in various States. The details of such programmes are at Annexure.

12. India with its continuous efforts has significantly improved its preparedness to deal with disasters and disaster-like situations. The measures taken by the Central and State Governments have significantly improved disaster management practices, preparedness, prevention and response mechanism resulting in significant reduction in casualties during natural calamities, in the country. Further, strengthening of the disaster management is a continuing and evolving process of governance.

(d): Based on the vulnerability profile of the Country, NDRF's 16 Battalions are strategically placed to ensure swift mobilization in the event of any disasters. Besides, these 16 Batallions, there are 28 Regional Response Centres (RRC) and 25 Tactical Positioning Locations, thereby ensuring regular presence of NDRF at 69 locations in the country.

4th Battalion of NDRF with headquarter at Arakkonam (Tamil Nadu) and 01 RRC at Chennai deal with the disaster or disaster like situation in the state of Tamil Nadu. The area of Tirunelveli is covered by this Battalion. Further, one NDRF Team has been deployed to attend the Off-site emergency at Kundankulum Nuclear Power Plant Site, Tirunelveli and other disasters in the vicinity. The deployed team is self-contained in all respects to respond to all natural and man-made disasters situations in the surrounding and nearby areas, including coastal regions.

Details of Mitigation Programme approved by the Government from NDMF

S. No.	Name of the Project	Financial outlay	Objectives	States/ Area covered
1.	Programme For Landslide Risk Mitigation	Rs. 1000 Crore	to reduce the mortality and economic losses, by reducing vulnerability of communities and their assets to landslides	10 North-Eastern & Himalayan (NEH) States as well as 5 landslide prone States, namely Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal.
2.	Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Mitigation Programme	Rs. 150 Crore	to adopt various structural and non-structural mitigation measures to minimize the risk of GLOF	4 Himalayan States, viz, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh
3.	Programme for Catalytic Assistance to 12 most drought prone States	Rs 2022.16 crore	for developing long term plans for drought mitigation	12 most drought prone States (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh)

4.	Mitigation Project for Lightning Safety	Rs. 186.78 crore	focusing on awareness activities for Lightning safety	50 most lightning prone districts of the 10 States (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal)
5.	Scheme for Forest Fire Risk Management	Rs. 819 crores	for forest fire risk management	144 forest fire prone districts of 19 States (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Manipur, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Uttarakhand)

6.	Urban Flood Mitigation Programme	Rs. 3075.65 Crore	to reduce the risk of urban floods	7 Major Cities, namely, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad
7	Urban Flood Risk Mitigation Project (Phase-II)	Rs. 2444.12 crore	to reduce the risk of urban floods	Eleven (11) cities viz Bhopal, Bhubaneshwar, Guwahati, Jaipur, Kanpur, Patna, Raipur, Trivandrum, Vishakhapatnam, Indore and Lucknow
8	Restoration and rejuvenation of 24 wetlands of Assam	Rs 692.05 crore.	For restoration and rejuvenation of wetlands	24 wetlands of 9 districts of Assam, spread across Brahmaputra river system
