

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2135**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY, 2018

**RELIEF FOR THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING**

2135. SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several people have died due to thunderstorms and lightning in many parts of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether lightning is not considered as a disaster and the people who died due to lightning and thunderstorms are not eligible for relief; and
- (c) if so, whether the Government would consider to include these natural disasters under the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Act so that the victims of these natural disasters can be considered for relief and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): Thunderstorms and Lightning have not been notified as natural calamities by the Government of India. The Ministry of Home Affairs has reported that it does not centrally maintain the details of people died due to thunderstorm and lightning. The primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the State Government.

The issue of inclusion of any disaster in the list of notified natural disasters has been considered by the successive Finance Commissions set up under the clause (1) of article 280 of the constitution from time-to-time. The 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, had inter-alia considered the proposal for inclusion of heat wave. However, the lightning and thunderstorm were not included in the centrally notified list of natural disasters eligible for relief under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) / National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). However, considering the need for flexibility in regard to state-specific disasters, the 14<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has recommended that expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims of State-specific disasters within the local context in the State, which are not included in the notified list of disasters eligible for assistance from SDRF/ NDRF, can be met from SDRF within the limit of 10% of the annual fund allocation of the SDRF, subject to fulfillment of certain prescribed conditions and norms.

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