

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.147
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2019

HELP OFFERED BY COUNTRIES / ORGANISATIONS

*147. DR. P.K. BIJU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government has refused to accept the help from various countries and organizations for the revival of Kerala which was devastated by the torrential rain and flood in the month of August, 2018; and
- (b) if so, the names of the countries and organizations which offered financial as well as technological help for reconstruction of the State and the reasons for not accepting such help from friendly countries?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ)

- (a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) AND (B) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 147 REGARDING HELP OFFERED BY COUNTRIES/ ORGANISATIONS FOR ANSWER ON 13.02.2019

(a) In the wake of the tragic Kerala floods, several countries expressed their sympathies and their willingness to assist in the relief and rehabilitation efforts. In response, Government expressed deep appreciation for such offers and conveyed that, in line with the existing policy, it is committed to meeting requirements for relief and rehabilitation through domestic efforts. It was further conveyed that contributions to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and the Chief Minister's Relief Fund from NRIs, PIOs and international entities such as foundations would, however, be welcome.

(b) In line with Government's policy, some countries have collaborated with international entities for relief and rehabilitation efforts in Kerala.

- (i) Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) team comprising experts representing UN agencies, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and European Union had carried out survey of flood affected areas in Kerala [28 Sept-15 Oct 2018].
- (ii) The European Union has made financial contributions to the Indian Red Cross Society for the Kerala flood relief operations.
- (iii) Some countries that have expressed desire or offered assistance for relief and rehabilitation efforts included Qatar, Kuwait, The Netherlands and Israel.
