

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 300**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH FEBRUARY, 2019/ MAGHA 16, 1940 (SAKA)

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

300. SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is ready to deal with any kind of natural calamity like earthquake and Tsunami;

(b) if so, the level of the country's preparedness to deal with such challenges; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard during the last three years?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJITU)**

(a) & (b): A Natural Calamity like earthquake and Tsunami can occur at any time in any place of the World. India has made constant progress in enhancing preparedness levels of the Nation, which is vulnerable to natural hazards. The preparedness level of India is constantly improving in the field of Disaster Management. Our Disaster Management Act 2005 articulates the need for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development planning. The National Policy on Disaster Management 2009 seeks to build a safe and disaster resilient India. The Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) has the latest scientific techniques to provide

early warnings of an impending tsunami, besides India, to the entire Indian Ocean region and has functioned flawlessly since its establishment in October 2007. ITEWC is considered as one of the most modern tsunami warning centres in the world. The ITEWC has the necessary infrastructure and capabilities to give tsunami advisories to India as well as to the other countries of the Indian Ocean region. Guidelines have been published by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) to enhance preparedness and coping capabilities of all stake holders including communities living in Tsunami-prone coastal areas, State Disaster Management Authority (SDMAs), State Governments and other agencies. Necessary steps have been taken to enhance disaster preparedness in Government of India, all the concerned Ministries as well as at the State level. Preparedness has also been enhanced by way of conducting capacity building exercises for professionals and communities, mock-drills and workshop and preparation of detailed emergency evacuation plans. The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) / Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) maintains a National Seismological Network to monitor earthquake activity in and around the country. Guidelines have been published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) etc. for the design and construction of earthquake

resistant structures to minimize the loss of life and damage to property caused by earthquakes. These guidelines are in wide circulation amongst the public and the administrative authorities responsible for the design and construction of earthquake resistant structures in earthquake prone areas.

(c) : As per Section 36 of the Disaster Management Act-2005, every Ministry of the Central Government is required to take necessary measures for disaster management including disaster preparedness. Some of the major measures taken by this Ministry and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for improving disaster preparedness are:

- i. Release of National Disaster Management Plan in 2016.**
- ii. Publication of 26 guidelines on different disasters by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) including guidelines on management of Earthquakes and Tsunamis.**
- iii. Setting up of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for prompt response and pre-positioning of NDRF in disaster vulnerable areas and preposition them across various vulnerable locations in the country.**
- iv. Encouraging States to set-up their own State Disaster Response Forces.**

V. Strengthening of State and District Disaster Management systems through various schemes of central government.

Vi. Construction of multi-purpose cyclone shelters and training of coastal communities on shelters during 2011-2020.

vii. Conducting mock drills and workshops for effectively responding to disasters.

Viii. Carrying out capacity building of disaster professionals and communities by NDMA, NDRF and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).

ix. Organizing Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners and Secretaries of the Department of Disaster Management of States and Union Territories to review their status of preparedness for dealing with any natural disasters.
