

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 932**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 13TH DECEMBER, 2022/ AGRAHAYANA 22, 1944
(SAKA)**

INTER-MINISTERIAL TEAM VISIT TO ASSAM

932. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Assam has made a request for an inter-Ministerial team to visit the State to assess damage caused due to flood and erosion in October, 2021 and to consider erosion as an item admissible under State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)/National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to consider the request as erosion is an annual disaster in the State of Assam and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): As per the National Policy on Disaster Management, the primary responsibility for disaster management, including disbursement of relief to the affected people on the ground level, rests with the State Governments concerned. The State Governments undertake relief measures in the wake of natural disasters including flood from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at their disposal, in accordance with the Government of India's approved items and norms. Additional financial

assistance is provided from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure in case of disaster of 'severe nature', which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT).

During the south-west monsoon of 2021, flood and landslides reported to have caused extensive damages in various districts in the State of Assam. The Central Government, without waiting for the Memorandum from the State Government of Assam, has constituted an IMCT on 10th September, 2021, for on-the-spot assessment of damages. IMCT has visited the State of Assam from 19.10.2021 to 20.10.2021. Based on the report of IMCT the Central Government had approved an amount of Rs. 51.53 crore from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), subject to the adjustment of 50% of balance available in State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) account.

Besides, during the financial year 2021-22, the State Government was allocated Rs. 686.40 crore under SDRF, which includes Rs. 617.60 crore as Central share and Rs. 68.80 crore as State share. The Central share of Rs. 617.60 crore was released, in advance, to the Government of Assam in two installments of Rs. 308.80 crore each.

Further, the erosion is not a notified disaster as per the guidelines for constitution and administration of the SDRF and NDRF. Further, the issue of inclusion of more calamities in the existing notified list of calamities was considered by the 15th Finance Commission and the Commission, in its report at para 8.143, had *inter-alia* observed that the list of notified disaster eligible for funding from SDRF and NDRF covers the needs of the State to a large extent and thus did not find merit in the request to expand its scope. However, based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the Central Government has allocated Rs. 948.40 crore under the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to the State Government of Assam for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26. The State Government can undertake mitigation activities for various disasters, including flood and erosion, as per the guidelines on SDMF issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on 14.01.2022.

Besides above, in order to mitigate the risk of erosion, 15th Finance Commission had made a separate allocation of Rs. 1500 crore from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) for the award period of 2021-22 to 2025-26, which can be availed by the States affected by erosion. NDMF guidelines has also been issued on 28.02.2022, and both the guidelines of SDMF and NDMF are available on the MHA website www.ndmindia.mha.gov.in.