

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4452**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 28TH MARCH, 2023/ CHAITRA 7, 1945 (SAKA)

NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF

4452. MS. DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any changes in the criteria relating to natural disaster relief and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government proposes to allow the disaster affected persons to receive assistance at district level in a time-bound manner as per the prevalent procedure and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide any “special assistance” as per immediate requirement in the matter of such urgent cases; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): The primary responsibility for disaster management, including disbursement of relief to the affected people on the ground level, rests with the State Governments. The State Governments undertake relief measures in the wake of natural disaster from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at their disposal, in accordance with approved items and norms of the Government of India. Additional financial assistance is provided from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)

as per the laid down procedure, which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT).

The release of funds from SDRF/NDRF and expenditure therefrom are governed by the 'Guidelines on constitution and administration of SDRF/NDRF' and items and norms issued by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), from time to time. The funds in SDRF are contributed by the Central Government and State Governments in the ratio of 75:25 for general category states and 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan States to undertake the relief measures in the wake of natural disasters.

The 15th Finance Commission (FC) had adopted a new methodology for state-wise allocations of funds, which replaces the expenditure driven methodology. The new methodology is a combination of capacity (as reflected through expenditure), risk exposure (area and population) and hazard and vulnerability (risk index). In a major departure from the earlier Finance Commissions, the 15th FC had recommended two funds with the nomenclature of State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) and National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF). SDRMF will consist of two components viz. SDRF and State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) with the allocation in the proportion of 80% and 20% respectively. Similarly, NDRMF will also have two components namely NDRF and National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) with allocation in the same proportion.

The Commission had also recommended that, within the SDRF/NDRF allocations of 80%, there would be three sub-allocations namely, Response and Relief (40%), Recovery and Reconstruction (30%) and Preparedness and Capacity Building (10%). As such, SDRMF and NDRMF will cover the entire cycle of disaster management – prevention, preparedness, response, mitigation, recovery and reconstruction. Based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, revised guidelines and items & norms of expenditure of SDRF/NDRF were issued on 12th January, 2022 and 10th October, 2022, respectively, which are available on the website of Ministry of Home Affairs at <https://ndmindia.mha.gov.in> .

With regard to special assistance, under the prevailing guideline of SDRF/ NDRF, there is no provision to provide any special assistance for immediate requirement. However, in view of the exigencies, the Central Government can release its share of SDRF, in advance to States in order to facilitate them to provide assistance to disaster affected people. Further, in the aftermath of a calamity, having severe impact and when funds available with the State Government are not found sufficient; the Central Government provides funds from NDRF, in advance, without waiting for the assessment of IMCT, so as to enable the State to provide immediate relief assistance to the affected people at the local level.
