

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2192
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, 2ND AUGUST, 2023**

INCREASING NUMBER OF NATURAL DISASTERS

†2192. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BHABHOR:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the number of natural disasters in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to open more Earthquake Science centres in the country to improve the process of real time data monitoring and data collection; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)

- (a) Yes Sir, Recent studies have reported significant rising trends in the frequency and the magnitude of extreme weather events over different parts of the world and also over various regions of India against a backdrop of global warming/climate change. The climate change assessment report published by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), notes that complex interactions between the earth system components amidst the warming environment and regional anthropogenic influences, have led to a rise in frequency of localized heavy rainfall events, drought and flood occurrences, and increase in the intensity of tropical cyclones etc. in the last few decades. This book also summarises the present status and future projection of climate change over India.

The present state of knowledge about earthquakes in and around the country, does not show any definite pattern in frequency of earthquake occurrences which could suggest any increase in earthquake activity. However, during the recent years, seismic monitoring in the country has been improved considerably and even the lower magnitude earthquakes are automatically detected and disseminated quickly through National Centre for Seismology (NCS) website, Mobile App and other social media. It is perhaps giving the impression of enhanced earthquake activity in the country, which was otherwise not noticed earlier.

- (b) and (c) Yes Sir, the expansion of seismological network is one of the routine activities of NCS, which is an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and is nodal agency of Government of India, for earthquake monitoring in the country. At present a total of 153 observatories of the National Seismological Network are operational throughout the country for monitoring of seismic activity in and around India.
