

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 96  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019  
SOUTH EAST ASIA HEALTH EMERGENCY FUND**

**\*96. SHRI BHOLA SINGH:  
SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR:**

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government actively participated in the 72nd Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia in Delhi recently and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Delhi Declaration on Emergency Preparedness to strengthen and operationalise cross border capacities for disaster reduction and response was unanimously adopted at the above meeting and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to contribute \$ 2,00,000 for the WHO South East Asia region's health emergency fund meant for rapid response towards both natural disasters and human-generated hazards, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps being taken by the Government to minimise disaster reduction and improve response rate in India?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 96\* FOR 22<sup>nd</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019**

(a) India participated and chaired the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the WHO Regional Committee for South East Asia and the Ministerial Round-table Meeting held in New Delhi during 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2019.

(b) Yes, Health Ministers of the Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region had unanimously adopted the Delhi Declaration on Emergency Preparedness in the South-East Asia Region on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

(c) Government of India has proposed to contribute US \$2,00,000 per biennium to establish a preparedness stream for the South East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund of World Health Organization, South East Asia Region. Accordingly, a sanction of US \$2,00,000 has been issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

(d) Primary responsibility of disaster management rests with the States. However, to strengthen the existing disaster management practices, preparedness, prevention, and enhance the response mechanism and minimizing the effects of natural calamities in the country, the Central Government has consistently supported states in disaster management and response.

The Disaster Management Act 2005 articulates the need for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development planning. As per provisions of the Act, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), National Institute of Disaster Management were created in 2006 at national level.

The National Policy on Disaster Management 2009 seeks to build a safe and disaster resilient India. Some of the major measures taken by Government of India for improving disaster response and disaster risk reduction are given as under:

- Release of National Disaster Management Plan in 2016
- Publication of 30 guidelines on different disasters by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on various disasters. These guidelines are available on NDMA's website: [www.ndma.gov.in](http://www.ndma.gov.in)
- 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.
- Strengthening of State and District Disaster Management systems through various schemes of Central Government.
- Capacity buildings of various stake holders including State Disaster Response Force of States/UTs by providing training through NDRF.
- Construction of multi-purpose cyclone shelters in coastal States and training of coastal communities on shelters during 2011-2020.
- Carrying out capacity building of disaster professionals and communities by NDMA, NDRF and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).
- The early warning is provided by the forecasting agencies of Government of India on real time basis for the impending disasters to all the concerned stakeholders for taking appropriate precautionary measures.