

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1395**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 11TH FEBRUARY, 2020/MAGHA 22, 1941 (SAKA)

DEATHS DUE TO LIGHTNINGS

1395. MS. MIMI CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that lightnings and lightning strikes related deaths have increased in the country in the last five years till December 2019;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government and the financial support given so far to the affected States therein?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): There is no detailed study which suggests that deaths due to lightning have increased in the country.

(c): India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues 03 hourly nowcasts for severe weather including thunderstorm and associated weather element like lightning for over 776 stations in India regularly on the basis of Radar and satellite data as well as ground based observations and provide in real time to the users through the website of IMD. IMD issues warnings through SMS and e-mail to disaster management authorities as well as to the persons, who are registered with IMD, throughout the year.

As per the Guidelines issued based on recommendation of 14th Finance Commission for Constitution and Administration of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/ National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), lightning is not included in the centrally notified list of natural disasters eligible for relief under SDRF/NDRF. However, a State Government can use up to 10% of the annual funds allocation of the SDRF, subject to fulfillment of certain prescribed conditions and norms, for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be 'disasters' within local context in the State and which are not included in the centrally notified list of natural disasters. Items and norms of assistance from SDRF/NDRF is available on Ministry of Home Affairs' website https://www.ndmindia.nic.in/images/SDRF2105to2020_310516.pdf.
