

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2542**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 2ND AUGUST, 2022/ SRAVANA 11, 1944 (SAKA)

DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICIES

2542. KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of higher level of vulnerability of women and children to natural disasters and climate induced shocks like floods and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is taking any steps to make disaster risk management and risk gender inclusive and it has also conducted or intends to conduct a gender audit of current disaster management policies and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the gender ratio in the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and whether any steps are being taken to involve more women in disaster planning and management processes;

(d) whether the Government intends to include sanitary napkins in the essential list of disaster relief items; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): The National Policy of Disaster Management, 2009 *inter alia* acknowledges that within the vulnerable groups, elderly person, women, children, especially women rendered destitute, children orphaned on account of disasters and differently abled persons are exposed to higher risks and the need of these persons require special attention.

Hon'ble Prime Minister's Ten Point Agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction envisages to encourage greater involvement and leadership of women in disaster risk management to support special needs of women affected by disasters.

In terms of the aforesaid policy and vision, the Central Government has taken following steps to make disaster risk management gender inclusive:

- (i) National Disaster Management Plan, 2019 (NDMP) has a chapter on 'Social Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)' which focusses on inclusiveness of DRR for more vulnerable sections. This chapter has a section on Gender Perspective and DRR, which addresses issues concerning Gender Minorities. This chapter also contains a Responsibility Framework which delineates roles and responsibilities of central and state Government agencies for addressing their concerns. All the stakeholders are required to follow the provisions of the plan.**
- (ii) The Guidelines issued by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for 'Preparation of State Disaster Management Plans (SDMPs)' focusses on special needs of vulnerable sections**

such as pregnant women and lactating mothers, children, the elderly and physically and mentally challenged persons.

(iii) NDMA is implementing upscaling of Aapda Mitra scheme under which 9032 community volunteers have been trained so far. Out of these trained volunteers, 1028 are women.

(c): A decision has been taken in the Ministry of Home Affairs to have one Mahila team each in 10 battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). At present, 243 women personnel in various ranks are posted in NDRF.

(d) and (e): Sanitary napkins are included in the Dignity Kit for women as an essential disaster relief item under the National Disaster Response Reserve(NDRR). Further, NDMA in its guidelines on “Temporary Shelter for Disaster Affected Families” has, inter-alia, emphasized for making adequate provisions for female menstrual needs i.e. cleaning and disposal of sanitary napkins etc.
