

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1153
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.12.2024

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PwDs

1153. Shri Lavu Sri Krishna Devarayalu

Shri Bastipati Nagaraju:

Will the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government has a dedicated policy framework to address the rescue and rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) during climate change-induced extreme weather events, such as floods and cyclones, particularly in disaster-prone States like Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) (b) if so, the details of the measures implemented to ensure that PwDs have accessible healthcare, food, water and infrastructure during such disasters; and
- (c) Whether the Government has any specific programs to address the increased vulnerability and mortality risk faced by people with psychosocial disabilities during extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and if not, whether any such framework is under consideration?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI B L VERMA)

(a), (b) & (c): The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 was enacted, replacing the erstwhile Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights, and Full Participation) Act, 1995, and it came into force on 19.04.2017.

Section 8 of RPwD Act provides that the PwDs shall have equal protection and safety in situations of risk, armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the State Disaster Management Authority are mandated to take appropriate measures to ensure inclusion of PwDs in its disaster management activities as defined under section 2(e) of Disaster Management Act, 2005 for the safety and protection of PwDs. It further provides that the District Disaster Management Authority constituted under Section 25 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 shall maintain record of

details of PwDs in the district and take suitable measures to inform such persons of any situations of risk so as to enhance disaster preparedness. The authorities engaged in reconstruction activities subsequent to any situation of risk, armed conflict or natural disasters are mandated to undertake such activities in consultation with the concerned State Commissioner, in accordance with the accessibility requirements of PwDs.

Section 24 (3) (c) of RPwD Act, 2016 provides that the appropriate Government shall within the limit of its economic capacity and development formulate necessary schemes and programmes to support PwDs during natural or man-made disasters and in areas of conflict.

Section 25 (2) (i) of the Act provides that the appropriate Government and the local authorities shall take necessary measures for the persons with disabilities to provide healthcare during the time of natural disasters and other situations of risk.

NDMA released National Disaster Management Guidelines on Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction (DIDRR) in September, 2019. The main aim was to provide directions to Departments, States and concerned stakeholders, to support implementation mechanism of DIDRR. While the guidelines focus on inclusivity in disaster management frameworks, they do not explicitly detail protocols for rescue and rehabilitation. Rescue and rehabilitation measures for PwDs during disasters are generally implemented at the state and district levels, guided by the State Disaster Management Plans (SDMPs).

National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) Phase-1 was implemented in States of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and details of project are as under :-

Components:

I. Component A: Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS)

II. Component B: Cyclone Risk Mitigation Infrastructure (CRMI)

III. Component C: Technical Assistance for Capacity Building on Disaster Risk Management

IV. Component D: Project Management and Monitoring

Funding Pattern:

Components A, C, and D - 100% by Government of India through World Bank assistance;

Component B - 75% Government of India through World Bank assistance and the remaining 25% by respective States from their own resources.

Project Development Objective:

To reduce vulnerability to cyclones and other hydro-meteorological hazards of coastal communities in the Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to increase the capacity of the State entities to effectively plan for and respond to disasters.

Implementation:

Phase I was approved for implementation in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha at a cost of Rs.1496.71 Crore in January 2011 with the date of completion as January 2016, with World Bank Assistance. It was further revised to Rs. 2541.60 Crore with the date of completion as December, 2018. Phase I stands completed with an expenditure of Rs. 2,524.84 Crore.

Physical Progress:

- i. **Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS):-**The EWDS, the state-of-the-art multi-technology option (Alert Siren, Satellite Radio, Mass Messaging, etc.) to provide reliable communication by ensuring last-mile connectivity during disasters has been commissioned and is operational in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.
- ii. **Cyclone Risk Mitigation Infrastructure (CRMI):-** The CRMI enhances the preparedness and mitigates the vulnerability of coastal communities through investments for the construction of multi-purpose cyclone shelters (MPCS), roads, bridges, underground electric cabling and saline embankments. The infrastructure created under the project is as under:

Sub-component	Andhra Pradesh	Odisha
MPCS (No.)	219	316
Roads (Km)	698.02	-
Bridge (No.)	35	-
Saline Embankment (Km)	58.22	29.90
