

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3492**

ANSWERED ON MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2025/ SRAVANA 20, 1947 (SAKA)

**LOANS TO VICTIMS AFFECTED BY NATURAL CALAMITIES**

‡3492. SHRI ARUN KUMAR SAGAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the general guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India in 1984 were revised in 1989 with a view to widening the scope of assistance/loans to be provided by banks to the victims of floods, cyclones, landslides, riots etc.;
- (b) if so, the number of persons to whom the assistance has been provided in the affected States till date;
- (c) whether any fresh instructions have been issued to financial institutions in the affected States to provide further financial assistance to the persons affected by the severe sea earthquake in December, 2004; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
(SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY)

(a) to (d): RBI had issued Guidelines in 1984 for Banks to extend relief measures in the areas affected by Natural Calamities viz., floods, droughts, cyclones etc. The scope of the said guidelines was extended to fishermen in 1989. Further, RBI vide its circular dated 30 December 2004 enhanced the amount of consumption loan for general purposes for people affected by the Tsunami.

The instructions of RBI on relief measures by banks in areas affected by natural calamities were consolidated and issued on 17 October 2018 which *inter-alia* provides restructuring of loans without downgrade in asset classification and sanctioning of fresh loans. Under the said consolidated guidelines cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, and cold wave/frost have been recognized as natural calamities.

As reported by RBI, about 7.84 lakh loan accounts were restructured/rescheduled and approx. 13.60 lakh fresh loan applications were sanctioned for the people affected with natural calamity in different states during March 2020 to June 2025.