

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*129

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 08TH DECEMBER, 2015/AGRAHAYANA 17,1937 (SAKA)

SAARC CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION

*129. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI V. PANNEERSELVAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the representatives of SAARC countries met recently in New Delhi to prepare a regional roadmap for disaster mitigation in the South Asian region;

(b) if so, the details thereof, the issues discussed and consensus arrived at along with the names of countries which participated in the meeting;

(c) whether a meeting of High level Committee for Central assistance to States to fight natural disaster was also held;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and steps taken or being taken by the Government in the aftermath of the high level Committee/SAARC meet; and

(e) whether the second Asian Partnership on disaster management is also proposed to be held soon and if so, the details thereof ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI KIREN RIJIJU)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*129
FOR 08.12.2015

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. India held the SAARC Workshop on Sharing Best Practices on 27th November 2015 combined with the proceedings of SAARC Disaster Management Exercise-2015 (SAADMEx - 2015) during 23-26th November, 2015.

The objectives of the Workshop were as mentioned below:

- To share best practices and success stories of handling disasters and draw lessons from different approaches of Disaster response & Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), in different member countries.
- Strengthening existing systems of regional co-operation and role of different institutions; in the context of lessons learnt from Nepal Earthquake.
- To deliberate on the outcomes of SAADMEx - 2015 and firm up recommendations for strengthening regional response and coordination for disaster management in the region

The regional workshop was attended by delegates from all 8 SAARC countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Issues pertaining to best practices on DRR and strengthening of regional disaster response were deliberated in detail by Member countries in the technical sessions. Four such technical sessions were organized to discuss issues pertaining to best practices on DRR and strengthening regional disaster response. Some of the key outcomes and decisions of these sessions were:

- There should be a regional mechanism and common platform for countries to share best practices;
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) which have been developed by SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) must be implemented in all SAARC countries and must be continuously monitored and evaluated as per international standards;

- Mechanisms must be designed and developed/promoted to adapt innovative best practices at National level and DRR should be seen as a key component in any planning process;
- Guidelines must be developed for accepting international assistance during emergencies;
- Integration of DRR into local plans, programmes/ schemes must be carried out;
- SDMC should be strengthened to operationalize with South Asia regional response.

(c) & (d): Recently, the meeting of the High Level Committee was held on 9.11.2015 under the Chairmanship of Home Minister to discuss Karnataka droughts and Gujarat Floods. In this meeting, the HLC approved and assistance of Rs. 1540.20 crore to Karnataka for drought (kharif) during 2015-16, from National Disaster Response Fund subject to the adjustment of 50% of balance available in the State Disaster Response Fund account. The HLC also approved Rs. 561.82 crore from NDRF to Gujarat for floods during 2015-16, from National Disaster Response Fund subject to the adjustment of 50% of balance available in the State Disaster Response Fund account . An additional Rs. 9.45 crore from Special component of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) was approved to Gujarat for repair of damaged rural drinking water supply works.

(e): No such Asian Partnership on Disaster Management is proposed to be held soon. However, 2nd ISDR(International Strategy for Disaster Reduction) Asian Partnership (IAP) was held at New Delhi from 17-19th November, 2015 to discuss inter-alia the preparation of the Asia Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.
