

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*592

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 8TH MAY, 2013/VAISAKHA 18,1935 (SAKA)

SPECIAL AUTHORITY TO COMBAT NATURAL CALAMITIES

*592. SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of the area in the country susceptible to earthquakes;
- (b) the percentage of the area under continuous threat of drought and floods;
- (c) whether any special authority has been entrusted with the task of initiating measures to combat natural calamities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN)

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

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) TO THE RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 592* FOR 08.05.2013.**

(a): The entire Indian landmass, susceptible to different levels of earthquake hazard, has broadly been classified into four distinct seismic Zones, referred to as Zones II to V (Source: Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council). The percentage area in each zone is as under:

% of landmass	Sesimic Zone
11	V Very High damage risk zone
18	IV High damage risk zone
30	III Moderate damage risk zone
41	II Low damage risk zone

(b): 40 million hectare in different parts of India has been identified as flood prone area(Source: BMPTC).

Around 68% of the country is prone to drought in varying degrees. Of the entire area, 35% of the area which receives rainfall between 750 mm and 1,125 mm is considered drought prone, while another 33%, which receives less than 750 mm of rainfall, is called chronically drought-prone. (Source: Manual for Drought Management published by Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Ministry of Agriculture).

(c) to (e): Parliament has enacted the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The Act was notified on December 26, 2005. It provides for institutional mechanism for laying down policies on Disaster Management and for ensuring measures by various wings of the Government for prevention and mitigation of the effects of calamities. National Disaster Management Authority, State Disaster Management Authorities, and District Disaster management Authorities have been constituted with specific roles and responsibilities for mitigation and management of natural calamities. In addition, National Disaster Response Force has been constituted. 10 battalions of NDRF are equipped and trained for rendering effective response to various types of natural and man-made disasters. National Institute of Disaster Management is incharge of training and capacity building in the field of Disaster Management.
