

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2550

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 20TH MARCH, 2013/PHALGUNA 29,1934 (SAKA)

EVOLVING EFFECTIVE MECHANISM TO MANAGE DISASTER EMERGENCIES

2550. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evolved effective mechanism to manage sudden disaster emergencies like earthquakes, coastal Tsunamis, cloud bursts, floods natural calamities or persons stranded and completely cut off from mainland due to unforeseen contingencies on land, sea, high-altitude snow-bound mountains, etc.;

(b) if so, whether Government has helicopters, small aircrafts, high speed boats, or sturdy fast-moving vehicles capable of running on newly carved rough motorways through comparatively difficult or on existing badly damaged roads; and

(c) whether such operational outfits with machines and trained personnel have been positioned at likely strategic locations throughout the country like Uttarakhand and North East inhospitable terrain?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): In order to strengthen the existing disaster management system, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 was enacted and notified on December 26, 2005. The Act provides for institutional mechanisms for drawing up and monitoring the implementation of the disaster management plans, ensuring measures by various wings of Government for prevention, mitigating and minimise the effects of calamities and for undertaking a holistic, coordinated, and prompt response to any calamity situation in the country. This also provides for capacity building including enhancement of preparedness through community participation.

The Central Government has constituted the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) with the responsibility for laying down the policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster managements. Similarly State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) have been constituted at the State and District Level.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been constituted under Section 44 of the DM Act, 2005 by up-gradation/ conversion of standard battalions of Central Armed Police Force, as a specialist force to deal with the disaster or threatening disaster situation are positioned in the disaster prone areas. 10 battalions of NDRF are equipped and trained for rendering effective response to various types of natural and manmade disasters. Based on vulnerability profile of different regions of the country, these specialist battalions have been presently stationed at the various strategic locations throughout the country to respond to any kind of emergencies. A NDRF battalion has been stationed at Guwahati, Assam for rescue and relief of the affected persons in the North-Eastern region. Similarly a NDRF battalion is also stationed at NOIDA with the area of responsibility for providing rescue and relief support of the affected persons in the Uttarakhand region

Besides making institutional arrangements, the Govt. of India keeps aircraft, helicopter, boats, specialist teams of Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces and personnel of NDRF, and medical stores are kept in readiness at strategic locations throughout the country including Uttarakhand and North East, for deployment in sudden disaster emergencies situation where ever required. Similarly essential commodities are kept at appropriate storage facilities of Food Corporation of India so as to enable the State Governments to draw them at short notice.

All these measures are expected to improve the existing disaster management practices, preparedness, mitigation, control and enhance the response mechanism to deal with natural disasters in the country including Uttarakhand and North-East region.
