

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1184**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27TH JULY, 2022/ SRAVANA 5, 1944 (SAKA)

DEATHS DUE TO LIGHTNING

1184. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it a fact that 96 per cent of the deaths due to lightning occur in rural areas and out of these 77 per cent are farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, the preventive and rescue measures being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether financial assistance in the form of a certain amount is provided by Government to the family of the deceased on compassionate grounds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

(a) and (b): This Ministry does not maintain centralized segregated data on deaths due to natural calamities including lightning.

India Meteorological Department (IMD), issues forecast and warnings for thunderstorms and associated weather phenomena five days in advance with regular updates. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, an autonomous research institution under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has established a lightning location network,

strategically installed at 83 places in the country to detect and locate lightning strikes with utmost accuracy. The output from this network is shared with IMD and various State Governments and is used for forecasting purposes.

In 2020, 'Damini' lightning App was developed by IITM-Pune. The App is monitoring all lightning activity which are happening over India and alert the person if lightning is happening in the area near the person, by GPS notification under 20KM and 40KM radius. It also provides the lightning warning at the location valid for next 40 minutes.

Apart from the above, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued 'Guidelines for Preparation of Action Plan – Prevention and Management of Thunderstorm & Lightning/ Squall/ Dust/ Hailstorm and Strong Winds' in 2019 to all State Governments/ UTs and is available on the website of NDMA. Besides, NDMA has taken the following initiatives:-

- Issued specific advisories and Do's and Don'ts on thunderstorm and lightning to State Governments/ UTs for taking necessary action.**
- Reviewed the preparedness and mitigation measures on thunderstorm and lightning with most affected States.**
- Developed a protocol for early warning dissemination on thunderstorm and lightning,**

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- **Produced IEC materials like Television Commercials (TVCs), Pocket Books containing do's and don'ts, audio-visuals on thunderstorm and lightning. Special panel discussion (TV Debate) on 'Aapda ka Saamna' show on Doordarshan.**
- **Run campaign through TV (Doordarshan) and Radio (All India Radio) on 'Thunderstorm & Lightning' in lightning prone States to create awareness among masses.**
- **Regular Social Media campaign on thunderstorm and lightning are being conducted. Do's and Don'ts are being shared on NDMA's social media platforms and videos are being continuously posted on twitter and facebook.**
- **Requested States/UTs and Ministries/ Departments to prepare an action plan for protecting building and allied structures to prevent loss of lives and property due to lightning.**

(c) and (d):As per the guidelines issued based on recommendations of 15th Finance Commission for Constitution and Administration of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/ National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), lightning is not included in the centrally notified list of natural disasters eligible for relief under SDRF/NDRF. However, the State Governments can use up to 10% of the annual funds allocation of their SDRF, for providing immediate

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relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be 'disasters' within local context in the State, including lightning. As per approved norms, an ex-gratia of Rs. 4.00 lakh is provided to the next-of-kin of a person died due to notified disaster.
