

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1966**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH DECEMBER, 2021/ AGRAHAYANA 24, 1943 (SAKA)

MITIGATING NATURAL DISASTERS IN THE HIMALAYAN STATES

1966 SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to mitigate the increase of natural disasters in sensitive areas of Himalayan States;

(b) whether policies and regulations for infrastructure project are updated to have minimal impact in Himalayan States, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any investment in research and development of disaster forecasting and early warning systems has been taken up;

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

(e) whether Government has any long-term framework and/or action plan for disaster management and climate resilience in Himalayan States; and

(f) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): The Disaster Management Act, 2005 provides for the integration of measures for the prevention of disasters and mitigation into the development plans and projects, in accordance with the guidelines of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). NDMA had prepared the National Disaster

Management Plan (NDMP) in 2016 and further revised it in 2019. This Plan, inter-alia, include measures to mitigate disaster risks, including those pertaining to the Himalayan region. There have been significant improvement in the multi-hazard monitoring and warning system. Some of the recent efforts of the Government are given in Annexure-I.

The infrastructure projects are planned and designed after obtaining necessary approvals. Government is also taking steps to update the hazard risk information and make it easily accessible to all the infrastructure sectors so that the projects are built in disaster resilience. In this regard, Building Material & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) has developed a digital atlas that captures the vulnerability of various parts of the country to different hazards. All the States and Union Territories have been sensitized to use this information in their project preparation.

(c) & (d): NDMA has completed a pilot project on the Development and Evaluation of Low Cost Landslide Monitoring Solutions in collaboration with IIT, Mandi in January 2021. IIT, Mandi has developed low cost Landslide Monitoring sensors and instruments based on Micro Electrical Mechanical System (MEMS), machine learning, and Internet of Things (IoT).

Government has approved Pan-India implementation of 'Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) based Integrated Alert System' for integration of all alerting agencies, [Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Water Commission (CWC), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Defence Geo-informatics Research Establishment (DGRE), Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Forest Survey of India (FSI)]. CAP is a centralized web-based platform which will modernize the disaster alerting mechanism of the country, using the information and communication technology and enhance the last mile connectivity.

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has commissioned four new Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) at Srinagar, Sonamarg, Kufri, and Mukteshwar. These radars are intended to provide information on severe weather events and support the disaster management authorities.

(e) & (f): NDMA has commenced the work to develop an earthquake mitigation project, which will include the Himalayan States.

NDMA has conducted six mock exercises during 2021 in six Himalayan and North-East States to enhance the efficacy and efficiency of disaster management.

NITI Aayog has launched the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), which is under implementation in the Himalayan Region States for strengthening of the overall governance and service delivery machinery within a district, including the ability to mitigate the impact of the natural disasters in these districts.

There are institutional mechanisms at National, State and district level for the effective management of natural disasters. The Disaster Management Act, 2005, articulates for each State Government to take all measures specified in the guidelines laid down by NDMA and such further measures as it deems necessary for the purpose of disaster management. Further, strengthening of the disaster management is a continuing and evolving process of governance.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) & (b) of the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1966 due for answer on 15.12.2021

- i. Under the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP), disasters such as Earthquake (due to high seismicity of the Himalayan regions), Cold Wave & Frost, Landslides, Cloudbursts and Hailstorms, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF), Forest Fires, etc. are covered, of which the Himalayan region is prone to. Environmental degradation in Himalayan Region has also been covered amongst disasters.**
- ii. NDMA has issued National Guidelines on different disasters, including those, pertaining to Himalayan region, such as, Earthquake, Cold Wave & Frost, Landslides and Avalanche, GLOF, etc.**
- iii. NDMA has approved Landslide Risk Mitigation Scheme (LRMS) to provide financial and technical support to landslide prone States for site specific landslide mitigation.**
- iv. Fifteenth Finance Commission has recommended an allocation of Rs. 750 Crore from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) for seismic and landslide risk reduction in the Himalayan region and for all the States in North-East during the next five years.**
- v. India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues regular weather forecasts and warnings through daily weather bulletins for the mountainous Himalayan regions.**
- vi. Respective State Governments / Union Territories are also taking necessary steps towards the preparation of State and Departmental Action Plan, vulnerability and risk assessment of natural hazards, installation of forecasting and decision support system and training & capacity building of staff, volunteers and community members etc.**
