

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, by when such committees would visit the remote areas in each State and submit its report to his Ministry to protect the culture of every State; and

(d) the funds being allocated and spent for the visit of such committees to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal under consideration at this stage.

(d) Does not arise.

Late arrival of Monsoon

1365. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister has convened any meeting of Secretaries of various States to study the late arrival of monsoon in each State especially from Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the details discussed and decisions arrived so far; and

(c) if not, by when such meeting will take place to monitor the day-to-day weather in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh where farmers are in trouble due to late arrival of rains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The day-to-day weather and monsoon situation is being closely monitored by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Indian Meteorological Department. Daily information despatches are sent to Cabinet Secretariat and all concerned Ministries including Agriculture, Water Resources, Rural Department, etc.

Earthquake prone zone

1366. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Geo Hayard International and the UN Centre for Regional Development has conducted a study in 21 cities in our country to locate earthquake prone zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this study report has revealed that Delhi and Mumbai are earthquake prone zone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to overcome the situation that may arise in these metro cities in the event of earthquake of high intensity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The Government is not aware of any study conducted by the Geo-Hazards International and UN Centre for Regional Development for 21 cities of the country to locate earthquake prone zone.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government of India has taken several steps aimed at earthquake hazard mapping including mitigation and management. A dedicated centre for Earthquake Risk Evaluation has been set-up as a separate wing of India Meteorological Department (IMD) which is mandated for collation and integration of existing data sets and to prepare the site-specific earthquake risk maps of high earthquake prone areas including metro cities. As per the seismic zoning map of India, published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the country is divided into 4 seismic zones, zone V is most seismically active, while zone II is the least. The map is periodically updated on new findings and data inputs.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Building and Material Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) have also brought out various guidelines for construction of earthquake resistant design of structures to minimize losses caused due to earthquakes. Design and construction of structures/dwellings as per these guidelines would ensure minimizing the damage to property and loss of lives in case of earthquakes.

Monsoon in North India

1367. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Monsoon is expected to reach North India very late and due to this reason, its impact is going to be very bad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is keeping a watch on this and taking early steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Southwest Monsoon-2009 set in over Andaman Sea around its normal date on 20th May, 2009 but it advanced over Kerala earlier than its normal date (1st June) by about 8-days on 23rd May, 2009. Further advancement of Monsoon-2009 over parts of Karnataka, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, West Bengal and Northeastern States was seen by the 1st week of June. Subsequently, the monsoon advancement over other parts of the country was sluggish as monsoon