

As per the Scheme of CRF, Accountant General in charge of account of the State shall maintain account of the Fund in the normal course. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India would cause audit of CRF to be conducted every year in terms of purposes of the CRF Scheme. As per the information received from AG (A&E), Assam, has reported the balance of Rs. 643.57 crore in CRF account as on 1st April, 2008.

Existence of ISI in Assam and NE States

502. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the existence of ISI in Assam and North Eastern States; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken by State and Central Government in this regard to control and prevent them from carrying out their activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) While inputs have been received from time to time indicating that some of the underground groups operating in the North Eastern States have developed links with external agencies, including Pakistan ISI, there are no specific inputs available to suggest existence of Pakistan ISI in the North Eastern States.

The Government has pursued a well-coordinated multi-pronged approach which includes strengthening the border management to check infiltration, galvanizing the intelligence machinery, improved technology, weaponry and equipments for security forces both at the Centre and in the States neutralizing plans of terrorist groups/anti-national elements/ISI agents by well coordinated intelligence based operations. As a result of the coordinated action by the Central and State Intelligence and security agencies, a number of Pak based terrorist/espionage modules have been detected/neutralized in various parts of the country including in North East.

Declaring cyclone 'Aila' in West Bengal as National Disaster

503. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received in his Ministry from the Government of West Bengal for declaring cyclone Aila in West Bengal as a national disaster;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of West Bengal has sought Rs. 1000 crore as assistance from Centre to rehabilitate the affected people and provide other relief; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action that has so far been taken by his Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Primary responsibility for undertaking relief operations is the responsibility of the State Governments; Government of India supplements the efforts of State Government by providing logistic and financial support. Calamity Relief Fund has been established, corpus of which is shared between Centre and State in the ratio of 3:1. This fund is operated by the State Level Committee headed by Chief Secretary for undertaking relief measures as per the items and norms approved by the Government of India.

In case the requirement of funds for relief operations in the event of a calamity of a severe nature, when resources in the CRF are inadequate, additional assistance is considered from National Calamity Contingency Fund, (NCCF), which is 100% funded by the Govt. of India. As such in case of calamity of a 'severe nature', the support to the concerned State Govt. is provided at the National level in the form of logistic and financial support in order to meet the situation effectively. There is no provision in these Schemes for declaring a calamity as a "National Calamity".

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per the information available in MHA, State Government has an amount of Rs.414.70 crore in the CRF account, for undertaking relief operations in the cyclone affected areas. It was therefore decided that the memorandum of the State Government may be processed as per laid down procedure for approval of funds from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF).

The High Level Committee (HLC) has now considered the request of the Government of West Bengal seeking additional financial assistance from NCCF in wake of cyclone "Aila" and decided to defer the decision on items relating to housing and road sectors, for want of area-wise details from the Government of West Bengal. In respect of the other sectors, assistance of Rs. 478.27 crore from NCCF has been approved.

Report of Central team on West Bengal cyclone

504. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central team which toured the State of West Bengal to assess the damage caused due to cyclone 'Aila' submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of recommendation made by the Central team; and

(c) what action Ministry has so far contemplated on the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Upon receipt of a Memorandum from Government of West Bengal, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the affected areas on 6th -9th June, 2009 and submitted a detailed damage assessment report and recommended assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). These recommendations relate to quantum of relief in case of loss of lives, damage to houses, loss of animals and food stock as well as damage to agricultural crops and infrastructure in the State.