

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.

The High Level Committee (HLC) has considered the matter 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.

Multi-purpose Identity cards

505. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to issue Multi-purpose Identity Cards to all the citizens in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when Multi-purpose Identity Cards are likely to be provided to the citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The Government has proposed to create a National Population Register (NPR) in the country for which details on specific characteristics of each individual shall be collected at the time of 2011 Census. Besides this information, there will be photographs and finger biometrics of all those who are 18 years of age and above. The NPR for the coastal villages in 9 maritime States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and 4 Union Territories (UTs) of Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Pudducherry, will be created ahead of 2011 Census during 2009-10, as one of the measures to strengthen the coastal security. The scheme for direct data collection in the coastal villages has been approved by the Government. Identity (smart) cards, are proposed to be issued to all those usual residents in these coastal villages who are of 18 years of age and above.

Status of coastal security scheme

506. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of coastal security scheme;

(b) whether all the infrastructure promised under the scheme has been provided to all the States and Union Territories;

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay;

(d) whether Government is facing difficulty in procuring the speed boats etc. required/promised under the scheme; and

(e) what efforts are being made to procure the speed boats etc. in time and by when everything will be in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) A comprehensive Coastal Security Scheme, which is a supplemental initiative, was approved in January, 2005 for implementation over a five year period commencing