

(d) the defensive steps taken by the Central Government to tackle this natural calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. However, seismic zoning map of India produced by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) categorized the whole country into four zones i.e. zone-II, III, IV and V.

(b) and (c) A Vulnerability Atlas has been prepared by Building Material Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) which is based on BIS Seismic Zoning map. As per this Atlas, 33.4% of area of Madhya Pradesh falls in seismic zone of III which is considered as Moderate Damage Risk Zone and rest of Madhya Pradesh in Zone II which is low risk damage zone.

(d) Various earthquake disaster management and mitigation measures are in place through the efforts coordinated by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the country. Significant of them is the issuance of guidelines for earthquake resistant design and construction of structures that have been laid down by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Housing Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) and BMTPC etc. for their adoption by appropriate planning and development authorities.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has issued National Disaster Management Guidelines for management of earthquakes during 2007 and is widely circulated among Ministries of Government of India and States/UTs administrations. National and state level disaster management plans are envisaged to be prepared in accordance with the NDMA guidelines by appropriate authorities to minimize the loss of life and property due to earthquakes.

Unified command to tackle naxalism

1069. SHRIMATI KUSUM RAI:

SHRI K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to form Unified Command to combat naxalites;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some States like Bihar, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have raised objections against unified command against naxalites; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) In a meeting of Governor/Chief Ministers of naxal affected States, held in July, 2010, it was unanimously agreed to constitute a Unified Command in the States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal to deal with the naxal problem effectively.

Inadequate equipment with police and CPMFs in naxal affected areas

1070. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to some reports, there exist any inadequacies in the kind of equipment that is available with the police and paramilitary forces in naxalite affected areas;

(b) if so, whether the lack of IED detection devices have aided the naxalites in their attacks against security forces; and

(c) if so, what is being done to provide these forces with state of art equipment to counter the naxal threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) There are no inadequacies in respect of equipments for detection and destruction of Improvised Explosives Devices (IEDs) in the Police and Central Paramilitary Forces. State Government deals with naxal problem effectively and the Government of India supplements its efforts through various ways including the scheme of Modernisation of Police Forces to provide modern equipments to counter the naxal threat.

Pending mercy petitions

†1071. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of those criminals at present who have been awarded death sentence by courts and are awaiting to be hanged for pendency of mercy petitions submitted to the Hon'ble President and due to the procedure followed by the Ministry;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.