

Warning System for Natural Calamities

1035. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for setting up warning system for natural disasters is under consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) It is not possible to have a composite warning system for all natural disasters, as with the present level of scientific knowledge, it is not possible to predict certain disasters such as earthquake, etc. India Meteorological Department has a well established system for warnings related to tropical cyclones and heavy rainfalls. In addition to this, it is proposed to set up an early detection and warning system for Tsunamis and storm surges. Apart from this, Government of India has also decided to set up a National Emergency Management Authority to act as a nodal point for all disaster related activities.

92nd Indian Science Congress

1036. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the deliberations of the 92nd Indian Science Congress held at Ahmedabad recently;

(b) if so, the details of major observations made and conclusions reached at the Congress; and

(c) the details of any fresh studies launched and policy initiatives taken in the light of the deliberations of the Indian Science Congress towards meeting the basic needs of the people through science?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The recommendations are yet to be finalized by the Indian Science Congress Association Secretariat. As and when these are received they will be circulated to various Departments of the Government for appropriate action.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

Inland water transport system

1037. SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether poor infrastructure hits inland water transport;
- (b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the inland water transport system in the country;
- (c) whether any concrete programme of action has been undertaken; and
- (d) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is committed to making the following interventions in order to improve IWT infrastructure:

- (i) Making the existing National Waterways fully functional by providing requisite infrastructure (terminals, navigational aids, etc.)
- (ii) Engaging States in IWT infrastructure development through liberal Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- (iii) Assisting IWT Operators in acquiring suitable vessels through Vessel Building Subsidy Scheme; and
- (iv) Encouraging private sector participation and joint ventures between IWAI and private sector.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The programme of action finalised in this regard are: