

[23 March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

ex-gratia out of the funds available with the State in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF).

(d) No foreign tourists have so far been reported to be victims of the calamity.

Insertion of the word 'Kashmir' in National Anthem

2395. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed and admitted in the Supreme Court of India for deleting the name of 'Sindh' from our National Anthem and inserting 'Kashmir' in its place; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir. A Civil Writ Petition has been filed in the Supreme Court for deletion of the word 'Sindh' from the National Anthem or its substitution by any other proper and approved word like 'Kashmir'.

(b) The Government is opposed to any deletion, addition, etc. in the National Anthem and is, therefore, contesting the Writ Petition.

Universities to study natural calamities

2396. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several universities in the country have requested for financial assistance for establishing a national centre for the study of natural hazards and calamities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, university-wise; and

(c) the action taken in this regard by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Requests had been received from Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University, Madhepura, Bihar and Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nasik, Maharashtra for opening of Institutes of Disaster Management in these Universities.