

Loss due to natural disasters

†3184. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India loses 50 billion dollar each year due to natural disasters, which include infrastructure losses worth 15 billion dollar;

(b) if so, whether Government has appointed any agency to estimate losses from natural disasters each year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government has set up any authority to get forecast on disasters and solution thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) As per World Bank study, published in June, 2003 direct losses in India from natural catastrophes during 1996-2001 had been US \$ 13.8 billion.

The Government of India has not appointed any agency to estimate losses from natural disasters. The damage and losses due to natural disasters are primarily assessed by the State Government concerned, as they are responsible for management of natural calamities.

(d) The various authorities at national level mandated to forecast disasters, are as under:—

(i)	India Meteorological Department	Rains Cyclone
(ii)	Central Water Commission (CWC)	Flood
(iii)	India Meteorological Department National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCWRWF)	Drought
(iv)	Geological Survey of India, India Meteorological Department	Landslide
(v)	Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)	Tsunami
(vi)	India Meteorological Department, Snow Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)	Avalanches

Criticism of caste based census

3185. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that three former Chief Election Commissioners — Sarvashri J.M. Lyngdoh, N. Gopalaswami and T.R. Krishnamurthy, have criticized the caste census decision of