

Including lightening in the list of natural calamity

†3792. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that hundreds of people die every year in the country due to lightening;

(b) whether it is also a fact that lightening is still not included in the list of natural calamity due to which affected families do not get any relief; and

(c) if answers to above parts are in the affirmative, the steps being taken to include lightening in the list of natural calamity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. However, this Ministry is not maintaining the information relating to the number of deaths which occur in the country due to lightening.

The event of lightening is not one of the eligible natural calamity for relief under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)/National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). The State Governments are required to provide relief from their Plan/own resources, to the people affected due to lightening.

The issue of inclusion of specific calamities in the list of identified natural calamities for the purpose of incurring expenditure from the relief funds has been deliberated by the successive Finance Commissions.

The 13th Finance Commission (for the period 2010-15), have also *inter-alia* considered the proposal of State Government for inclusion of certain proposed new calamities including lightening in the notified list of natural calamities entitled for funding under SDRF and NDRF. However the Commission has not recommended any new calamity in the existing list of natural calamities comprising of cyclone, drought, earthquake, tsunami, fire, flood, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloud burst and pest attack, qualifying for assistance from SDRF and NDRF. As such, the concerned State Governments are required to provide assistance for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction from their Plan/own resources, to the population affected by the natural calamities other than notified natural as above.

Scheme for development in border areas

3793. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed a scheme for development of 12 districts and 100 blocks in border areas;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.