

Strengthening the functioning of NDMA

395. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the recent natural calamity in Uttarakhand has exposed the total unpreparedness of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA);

(b) Whether the NDMA is not equipped to evacuate people in adverse weather during natural calamity; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to strengthen the functioning of the NDMA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The primary responsibility for management of disaster rests with the State Government concerned. The institutional mechanism put in place at the Centre, State and district levels helps States to manage disasters in an effective manner. As per Disaster Management Act, 2005, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has the responsibility for laying down policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management for ensuring timely and effective response to disaster.

Further, as per the DM Act, 2005 National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been raised for the purpose of specialized response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster. The general superintendence of NDRF is with NDMA.

(b) In the case of June, 2013 disaster in Uttarakhand, 14 teams of NDRF were deployed for immediate rescue and relief operations. Apart from this, a Member of NDMA was entrusted the task of coordinating with all the agencies concerned during the disaster response phase. He has further been entrusted with the additional responsibility of assisting and advising the Uttarakhand government in preparation of rehabilitation, reconstruction and rebuilding of the ravaged areas.

NDRF rescued 9321 persons and retrieved 142 bodies. In the Helicopter crash that took place, 9 officials of NDRF lost their lives.

(c) In view of reply at (b) above, the question does not arise.