THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per, section 3 (2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, NDMA consists of the Prime Minister as *ex-officio* Chairperson and such number of other Members, not exceeding nine, as may be prescribed by the Central Government. There has always been at least one Member in NDMA, in addition to the Prime Minister as Chairperson.

(d)   No, Sir.

Access for the least developed countries to Indian market under WTO

*56. SHRI K.C. TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a)   whether India has informed the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that it should ensure that the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) get access to its market without duties or quotas, if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the response received so far; and

(c)   how it would be beneficial to our people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): (a) Pursuant to the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration of December, 2005 for Duty Free Quota Free access to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), India announced its Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) Scheme for LDCs in the year 2008. The Scheme came into full operation in 2012 and provided duty free access on about 85% of India's total tariff lines and preferential access (Positive List) on about 9% of tariff lines. Only 6% tariff lines were under the Exclusion List. This scheme was accordingly notified to the WTO in 2011.

Further, to fully meet the obligations under the Hong Kong Ministerial Mandate, the Scheme has been expanded and with effect from 1.4.2014, the Scheme now provides duty free market access on about 96 % of India's tariff lines and 2.2% of the lines are enjoying preferential duties. Only 1.8% of the tariff lines have been retained in the Exclusion List, with no duty concessions.

(b)   At present, 31 out of the 48 LDCs have become beneficiaries to the scheme. Out of this, 21 LDC beneficiaries are from Africa.

(c)   The WTO provides a rule based system for global trade which ensures

stability and predictability in trade relations. Through this initiative, India has been able to strengthen its position in the WTO on issues relating to LDCs and same is also expected to send a strong signal to major developed countries which are yet to comply with the Hong Kong Ministerial Mandate to adopt similar measures. In the process, India has also been able to have more fruitful engagement with the LDC trading partners.

Manufacture of bombs using money made from illegal trade of animals

*57. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that according to a U.P. Police report, money made from illegal trade of animals was being used to manufacture bombs targeting India;

(b)   if so, the details thereof;

(c)   whether it is also a fact that the Central Government has asked the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to take stringent measures to prevent such illegal activities; and

(d)   if so, the response received by the Central Government from the Government of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): (a) There is no report with the Government that money made from illegal trade of animals is being used to manufacture bombs.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Damage due to lightning strikes in Kerala

*58. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government is aware of the damages caused to human beings and properties by lightning strikes during rainy season in Kerala;

(b)   whether it is a fact that the Government of Kerala has persistently been demanding to recognise lightning as a natural calamity, thereby making such victims eligible for compensation from national relief funds; and

(c)   if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. In this context, it is mentioned that the issue