Government, based on their preliminary assessment, 354 humans and 4,383 cattle have been lost and 1.17 lakh huts have been reported damaged due to floods during November-December 2015.

With regard to declaring a national disaster, it is informed that there is no provision to declare a natural calamity as a 'national disaster/calamity' in the guidelines. However, the Government of India adjudges a disaster/calamity of 'severe nature' on case-to-case basis taking into account *inter alia* the intensity and magnitude of the calamity, level of relief assistance, cope capacity of the State Government to tackle the problem, the alternatives and flexibility available within the Plan to provide succor and relief etc. The priority is immediate relief and response assistance in the context of a natural calamity. As such there is no fixed prescribed norms. However, for calamity of a 'severe nature', additional assistance is also considered from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), after following the established procedure. Keeping in view of the intensity and magnitude of floods of November 2015 in Tamil Nadu, it has been adjudged a calamity of a 'severe nature' for all practical purposes.

Granting powers to BTC to form armed security force

1969. SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) which is under 6th Schedule of Constitution of India has not been provided Home (Police) powers, as a result many bad elements like terrorists, extremists and jihadists are using this area for their networking centre;

(b) whether local people of Assam are always in threat but Government of Assam does not provide security personnel to this area as prayed by the BTC; and

(c) if so, whether the Ministry proposes to provide powers to BTC to form/ establish/open an Armed Security Force under the supervision of MHA for the purpose of security only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): (a) and (b) Public order and Police are State subjects as enshrined in Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India which have not been entrusted to Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) set up under the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India. Adequate Security Forces have been deployed in the BTC area to maintain the law and order and also to deal with the unlawful elements.

(c) In view of the (a) and (b) above, there is no such proposal.