

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) It has been mentioned in the Government's National Common Minimum Programme to declare the Tamil language as a classical language.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In view of the position stated in reply to part (a) of the question, this issue does not arise today.

Establishment of Disaster Management System

1511. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are plans of Government in establishing a disaster management system for the country;

(b) whether the inputs from space systems of India are factored into such plans;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what is the projected schedule for declaring the system operational; and

(e) whether the progress is as per the planned schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Government have taken several measures encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and relief. These measures *inter-alia* include training and capacity building for multi hazard mitigation; drawing up of Disaster Management and Emergency Support Function Plans; setting up of Emergency Operation Centres; setting up of specialist search and rescue teams; establishment of Regional Response Centres where caches of essential search and rescue equipments will be stored; finalizing incident Command System; development of on-line national inventory of disaster response resources; development of a national emergency communication plan for failsafe communication and introduction of disaster management in public education. Recommendations/guidelines have been issued by the Ministry to the State Governments from time to time in regard to specific initiatives/measures to be taken by them in pursuance of this approach.

(b) to (e) The Department of Space is working very closely with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Science & Technology and Indian Meteorological Department in the field of Disaster Management. Space based platforms are being used for early warning of cyclones and other weather events. Assistance from Department of Space is also being made available for emergency communications. A Geographical information System (GIS) based database for emergency management is also proposed to be set up in partnership with National Remote Sensing Authority (NRSA) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Department of Space inputs are also an essential part of hazard zonation.

Sexual harassment of women in police custody

†1512. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cases relating to the sexual harassment of women in police custody have increased; and

(b) if so, the State-wise details of the extent of increase therein and the number of accused who have been punished during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) As per the statistics available with the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of cases of custodial rape during reported the last five years is as follows:

Year	No. of cases
1998	4
1999	4
2000	2
2001	0
2002	3

(b) A statement on number of cases reported, persons arrested, persons chargesheeted and persons convicted in the last five years is given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.