

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2879**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER, 2021/ 01 PAUSHA, 1943 (SAKA)  
GUIDELINES FOR DECLARING A DISASTER AS NATURAL CALAMITY**

**2879. SHRI IRANNA KADADI:**

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of guidelines for declaring a disaster as a natural calamity;**
- (b) whether the affected State is provided special assistance in case of natural calamity;**
- (c) whether Government is considering the proposal from Karnataka to revise the scale of Central Assistance and norms with respect to NDRF/SDRF; and**
- (d) the details of funds released to Karnataka under National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) during the last three years?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)**

**(a) to (c): There is no specific provision in Disaster Management Act, 2005, to declare a 'disaster' as 'natural calamity'. However, the 'disaster' has been defined under Section 2(d) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, as under:-**

**“disaster” means a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or manmade causes, or by accident or negligence which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property, or damage to, or degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area.”**

**The primary responsibility for disaster management rests with the State Governments concerned. The State Governments undertake relief measures in the wake of natural disasters from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), already placed at their disposal, in accordance with Government of India's approved items and norms. Additional financial assistance is provided from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), as per laid down procedure in case of disaster of 'severe nature', which includes an assessment based on the visit of an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT).**

**The release of funds from SDRF/NDRF and expenditure therefrom are governed by the 'Guidelines on constitution and administration of SDRF/ NDRF' and items and norms issued by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), from time to time. The revision of guidelines and items and norms are done based on the recommendations of the successive Finance Commissions as per the established procedure. After the recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission, the process for the revision of item and norms for the expenditure from NDRF/ SDRF during the award period of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission i.e. upto 2026 has been initiated by constituting a Committee, consisting of members from the Central Ministries and State Governments, including the State of Karnataka. The Committee is in the process of finalizing its recommendations by taking into consideration the suggestions of all the State Governments and other stakeholders, including the suggestions received from the Government of Karnataka.**

**(d): Based on the recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission and under the provisions of Section 47 (1) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, this Ministry vide notification, dated 05.02.2021, had constituted the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF). The 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission in its report has made separate allocations for NDMF and State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF). During 2021-21, an amount of Rs 791.00 crore was released as Central share of the State Disaster risk Management Fund (SDRMF) to the State of Karnataka, including Rs 158.20 crore for SDMF.**

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***Q.No.2880      Question was cancelled.***