

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:132

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2003

SAFETY MEASURES IN BUILDINGS

HARIBHAI PARTHIBHAI CHAUDHARY;MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA

**Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the study by the Disaster Management Study Group has indicated that in the event of earthquake over six degree magnitude 20 per cent of the Capital's population would perish and large scale destruction of property would take place; and

(b) if so, the disaster management measures being contemplated by the Government to meet such an eventuality?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION ( MAJ.GEN. B.C. KHANDURI, AVSM (RETD.))

(a)&(b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 132 FOR 29.7.2003 REGARDING SAFETY MEASURES IN BUILDINGS.

(a)&(b): The Ministry of Home Affairs, Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Delhi Development Authority and the New Delhi Municipal Council have reported that they are not aware of any such study estimating extent of damages to life and property in the event of an earthquake of over six degree magnitude in Delhi.

According to the Seismic Zonation prepared by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Delhi falls under Seismic Zone IV i.e. high damage risk zone. Building stock would be prone to damages under high intensity of earthquake particularly those buildings which are not constructed according to the safety norms and codes and specifications formulated by Bureau of Indian Standards. In order to meet any eventuality, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has constituted a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary and comprising of representatives of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council, Public Works Department, Delhi Development Authority, Delhi Vidut Board, Delhi Jal Board, Delhi Fire Service, Delhi Police, etc. The terms of reference of the Committee are to function as an overall supervisor that would work out the detailed arrangements for pre-disaster preparation as well as post-disaster management. Some of the initiatives already taken on disaster management and mitigation are -

i) Amendment of Unified Building Bye-laws to incorporate structural safety measures to ensure that buildings that are constructed mandatorily provide for requisite safety features with respect to earthquake forces.

ii) Survey of Government owned buildings to ensure their structural soundness.

iii) Asking private owned multi-storeyed buildings to adopt retrofitting techniques and other measures in order to earthquake proof their buildings.

iv) Setting up of Disaster Management Centres at Laxmi Nagar, Rohini and Nehru Place.