

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5622
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2005
CIVIL DEFENCE ORGANISATION
Singh Shri Rakesh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Civil Defence Organisation came into existence for disaster management in the aftermath of Indo-China war;
- (b) if so, whether there is any utility of such an organisation in view of the persistent natural calamities;
- (c) if so, whether the Government has any scheme for expansion of the organisation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) to (d): The Policy of the Government of India was to make the States and Union Territories conscious of the need of Civil Defence measures and to ask them to keep ready Civil Defence Paper Plans for major cities and towns. The Civil Defence which earlier operated under the now defunct `Defence of India Act 1962` was given legal status by `Civil Defence Act` passed by Parliament in 1968. This Act extends to whole of India and provides, inter-alia, measures not amounting to actual combat, for affording protection to any person, property, place or thing against any hostile attack, whether from air, land, sea or other places or for depriving any such attack of the whole or part of its effect, whether such measures are taken before, during, at or after the time of such attack. Under the Act, State Government may constitute for any area within the State, a body of persons to be called the Civil Defence Corps. The State Government may for the purpose of coordination of activities of Controllers within the State appoint a Director of Civil Defence. In the Centre, the organization is headed by Director General, Civil Defence which is responsible for all policy matters concerning Civil Defence, Home Guards and Fire Service. The country has a pool of trained Civil Defence volunteers. These Civil Defence Volunteers are provided training in various services like Communications, Casualty management, Rescue, Welfare and Supply management, Depot and transport service, Fire fighting, Salvage and Corpse disposal. These services are akin to the requirements of assistance needed in the event of disasters. State Governments may also utilize the services of Civil Defence Volunteers for mitigation/prevention of and preparedness for disasters as well as for response and relief after a disaster has struck. The government is considering to revamp the Civil Defence set-up in the country.