

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6965  
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005  
POSSIBILITY OF EARTHQUAKE IN HIMALAYAN REGION  
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

**Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware of an overdue earthquake in the Himalayas as reported in the 'Hindu' dated April 5, 2005;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) whether any institutional arrangements have been put in place to deal with post-earthquake situation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Government is aware that the 'Hindu' dated April 5, 2005 has quoted statements by some foreign and Indian scientists about the possibility of an earthquake in the Himalayas. A major portion of Himalayan region lies in seismic Zone-V, which is considered to be seismically one of the most active regions. However, at present there is no method available which can scientifically predict earthquake in terms of magnitude, space and time.

(c) & (d): There is a well established institutional arrangement in place to deal with post earthquake situations for carrying out response to any disaster situations arising in the country. At the national level, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the nodal agency for all matters concerning disaster management. The Central Relief Commissioner (CRC) in MHA is the nodal officer to coordinate relief operations for natural disasters. The CRC receives information related to forecasting/warning of natural calamity from India Meteorological Department (IMD) or from Central Water Commissioner (CWC) on a continuing basis. The nodal officer is responsible for preparing Sectoral Action Plan / Emergency Support Function Plan for Managing Disasters.

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), which is headed by the Cabinet Secretary, gives directions to Crisis Management Group (CMG), as deemed necessary. The Secretary, MHA is responsible for ensuring that all developments are brought to the notice of the NCMC promptly. The NCMC may give directions to any Ministry/ Department for specific action required for meeting the crisis situation.

The Crisis Management Group (CMG), in the Ministry of Home Affairs, is mandated to review every year contingency plans formulated by various Ministries / Departments / Organizations in their respective sectors, measures required for dealing with natural disaster, coordinating the activities of the Central Ministries and the State Governments in relation to the disaster preparedness and relief. CMG in the event of natural disaster extends all possible assistance required by the affected States to overcome the situation effectively.

A National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) also exists in MHA which functions round the clock to assist the Central Relief Commissioner. The activities of the Control Room include collection and transmission of information related to natural calamity and relief, keeping close contact with governments of affected States, interaction with other Central Ministries/ Departments in connection with relief, etc.

A National Contingency Action Plan for dealing with contingencies arising in the wake of natural disasters has also been formulated by the Government