

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:79  
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2005  
NORMS FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION  
Meghwal Shri Kailash

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

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to make norms for building construction mandatory in order to make them earthquake resistant;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by when the said norms are likely to be made mandatory?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE ( SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY )

(a)to(c): Construction of buildings is governed and regulated by Building Bye-laws/Regulations framed by respective States / Urban Local Bodies. The National Building Code, 2005 published by Bureau of Indian Standards under Ministry of Consumer Affairs contains, inter-alia, a chapter on Structural Design (Part 6), which gives all the provisions for structural safety. Further, Model Building Bye-Laws brought out by Town & Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) under this Ministry also contains a section on Structural Design, which mentions that design of foundation, masonry, timber, plain concrete, reinforced concrete, pre-stressed concrete and structural steel shall be carried out in accordance with Part 6 of National Buildings Code. Both National Building Code, 2005 and Model Building Bye Laws are advisory in nature and have been circulated to all the State Governments for their adoption.

Ministry of Urban Development has been impressing upon the States from time to time by way of letters, workshops and conferences to suitably amend their existing bye-laws and regulations to ensure construction of earthquake resistant houses and buildings.

A model Town & Country Planning Legislation, Zoning Regulation, Development Control and Building Regulation / Bye-laws for Safety against Natural Hazards, including earthquakes, have also been prepared by an Expert Committee constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs. All the States have been advised to amend their respective Acts / Bye-laws / Regulations so that construction activities are regulated with respect to safety against earthquake hazards.

Buildings Materials & Technology Promotion Council under the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation has been holding workshops to help State Governments in amending their Acts / Bye-laws / Regulation for safety against natural hazards and disseminate recommendations of the Expert Committee at the instance of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Thus, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to make the norms mandatory. In so far as Delhi is concerned, Clause-18 of Part-III of Unified Building Bye-laws, which prescribes standards for structural safety and services, was amended by this Ministry vide Notification dated 21.3.2001 to make them conform to the latest provisions in the list of Indian Standards for earthquake protection. Apart from this, a sub-clause was inserted under Clause 6.2.9 making it mandatory to submit a certificate signed by the owner, architect and structural engineer at the time of submitting of building plans for obtaining building permission as well as at the time of obtaining completion certificate to the effect that requirements stipulated under Clause-18 have been duly incorporated in the design of the building and the construction has been carried out accordingly.