

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:262

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2006

TSUNAMI /EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS

Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken initiatives to boost the morale of the Tsunami and Earthquake victims which occurred during the year 2004-2005;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether any employment and rehabilitation has been provided to those who are the only surviving members of their family;
- (d) if so, the nature of assistance provided to such families;
- (e) the number of persons who became handicapped in these natural disasters; and
- (f) the details of the efforts made for the welfare of such people?

Answer

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

(a) to (f): The tsunami of December 2004, which was triggered due to an earthquake of intensity 8.6 on the Richter scale, was of unprecedented nature. A total of 9315 lives were lost and 4062 persons have been reported to be missing. Besides, more than 6000 persons suffered injuries. Massive relief, rescue and rehabilitation measures were launched by the Central and State Governments in order to normalize the situation at the earliest as majority of the people affected by Tsunami belonged to weaker sections of society.

A comprehensive package with a provision of Rs. 3644.05 crore titled as `Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package` was announced mainly for the revival of livelihoods and to provide immediate relief and response, revival of fisheries and agriculture sector, construction of temporary/ intermediate shelters and special relief to orphans, unmarried girls, widows and disabled. In addition, Govt. of India financed the cost of sustenance and ex-gratia was also paid from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

After the completion of phase of rescue and immediate relief, Government has approved a long term Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme (TRP) at an estimated cost of Rs. 9870.25 crore over a period of four years. The TRP includes different sectors such as housing, fisheries, agriculture and livelihoods, ports and jetties, roads and bridges, power, water and sewerage, social infrastructure and welfare, environmental and coastal protection and tourism etc.

The State Governments on their part have also launched new initiatives to take care of the vulnerabilities of the affected persons. Among others these include:

- (i) Educational packages;
- (ii) Psychosocial care;
- (iii) Package for orphan adolescent girls;
- (iv) Self Help Groups of destitute women
- (v) Child Helpline
- (vi) Short Stay Home for women, etc