

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1809
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2006
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BY GSI.
Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Geological Survey of India has conducted any study to ensure safety of life and property of people living in coastal areas in the wake of Tsunami in the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the funds provided for geological survey in this regard;
- (d) whether GSI has taken assistance of experts in the field from world over; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) is not directly involved in the safety aspects of the people living in the coastal areas. However, GSI is one of the members in the committee constituted by Department of Science and Technology (DST) on resettlement issues as a sequel to the Tsunami in Andaman and Nicobar region.

(b) GSI has taken immediate action for carrying out multifarious geoscientific studies in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and Tsunami of 26th December 2004 as detailed below –

(i) A team of scientists led by the Director General, GSI visited South Andaman and Baratang Islands to study the effects of earthquake and Tsunami.

(ii) Several teams from GSI have carried out detailed scientific studies in the Andaman group of islands after the earthquake. These include Macro-seismic (post earthquake damage survey to constrain earthquake intensity) survey, Global Positioning System (GPS) survey for constraining ground deformation, study of aftershocks with five digital seismographs deployed in the islands at Port Blair, Carnic (Car Nicobar), Hut Bay (Little Andaman), Rangat

(Middle Andaman) and Diglipur (North Andaman). Nearly 6500 aftershocks have been recorded by GSI, which show a trend of continuous release of stress energy.

(iii) Teams of Geoscientists from GSI have carried out studies on the effects of Tsunami

(post – tsunami survey) in the worst affected coastal tract of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

(iv) To study the changes in the offshore domain, GSI has undertaken Bathymetry and magnetic surveys in the sea around Andaman and Nicobar islands to study the submarine geomorphological changes.

(v) GSI has posted all relevant information and data on its Website i.e. www.gsi.gov.in. A special publication of GSI (No.89 in press) is being brought out incorporating the results of this study.

(vi) During 25th to 27th January, 2005, GSI members alongwith other DST Committee Members visited Port Blair in connection with collection of data on submergence/re-settlement issues in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(c) No specific amount is made available to Geological Survey of India for this purpose and GSI utilized its budgetary allocations for the said studies.

(d) & (e) : Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India has consulted the specialists in this field. GSI is a lead agency in collaborative research with Geological Survey of Japan. GSI also conducted joint field studies in Tsunami affected area along with the researchers of IIT, Kanpur, University of Tokyo and Geological Survey of Japan. GSI scientists participated in the conferences on the Earthquake of Sumatra and Indo-Australia subduction held at Paris. The Earth Science Sector, Natural Resources, Canada has proposed a collaborative programme between India and Canada on an overall disaster mitigation efforts which include Tsunamis.

