

[English]

BILLS, AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following two Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:-

- (1) The Indian Ports (Amendment) Bill, 1991
- (2) The Delhi High Court (Amendment) Bill, 1991.

13.06 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation Arising out of Earthquake in Hills of Western Uttar Pradesh

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the situation arising out of the recent earthquake in hills of Western Uttar Pradesh and the steps taken by the Government for rendering relief to the affected population.

An earthquake occurred in the very early hours of October 20, 1991 in the hills of Western Uttar Pradesh with epicentre of 30.75° North and 78.86° East having a magnitude of 6.6 on the Richter Scale. India Meteorological Department's seismological observatory at Delhi has recorded 58 after shocks till 28th November, 1991. It is quite likely that some more after shocks may still be recorded till the aftershock activity decays. However, there is already a perceptible decline in the number and magnitude of the after shocks.

Earthquake related damage depends on many factors and the magnitude of the

earthquake is only one of these factors. For example, the Indo-Burma Border earthquake of August 6, 1988 was of higher magnitude (7.2) as compared to the magnitude (6.5) of the Indo-Nepal Border earthquake of August 21, 1988. But the former caused no damage whereas the latter resulted in serious devastation. The resultant damage depends on the local depth, nature of soil, type of buildings and structures, population density and time of occurrence (night or day)

The impact of earthquake of 20th October, 1991 was felt more severely in Garhwal Region of Uttar Pradesh. Its impact, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Delhi. It caused extensive damage in the Districts of Uttarkashi, Tehri and Chamoli. It also caused some minor damage in the District of Nainital, Pauri Garhwal and Dehradun. Himachal Pradesh Government reported death of one person, injury to six persons, and some damage to three houses. The State Governments of Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Delhi did not report any damage.

The exact details of the damage especially to the property are still being assessed by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. According to the latest information furnished by the State Government, 1819 villages were affected by this earthquake comprising population of 4.22 lakhs. About 90,000 houses have been damaged of which about 20,000 fully and 70,000 partially. 768 persons are reported to have lost their lives and 5,000 persons sustained about injuries in addition to loss of 3000 cattle heads.

Immediately on occurrence of the earthquake, the State Government officers were contacted to ascertain the position and also immediate central assistance required. A Central Reconnaissance Team also visited the affected areas on the 21st October, 1991 to have a first hand information about the impact, of the earthquake relief measures being undertaken by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and immediate assistance required by them from the centre to meet the situation.