

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2345
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10th DECEMBER, 2009

TSUNAMI RESEARCH CENTRE

2345. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:
SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his Ministry has any proposal to set up a prestigious tsunami research centre in Gajularamaram in Ranga Reddy district of Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and present position thereof;
- (c) the funds allocated and spent so far for this project; and
- (d) if not, by when such proposal will be implemented?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES,
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND MINISTER
OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- (a) Yes Sir. The Government has already established a state of the art National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), at Gajularamaram, Ranga Reddy District, Andhra Pradesh.
- (b) The NTWC at INCOIS has been operational since 15th Oct., 2007 with the state-of-the-art facilities. All the necessary computational and communication infrastructure - that enables reception of real-time data from all the sensors, analysis of the data, generation and dissemination of tsunami advisories following a standard operating procedure - have been put in place. It operates on 24X7 basis and monitors the seismic activity in known tsunamigenic source regions of Indian Ocean as well as the real time water level observations from Bottom Pressure Recorders (BPR) and Tide Gauges for detecting the significant changes in water levels. The centre is equipped for reception of real time seismic and water level changes data from various national and international stations.

Whenever an earthquake of magnitude >6.5 on Richter scale occurs in the Indian Ocean, the centre issues the earthquake information within 10-15 minutes indicating the Tsunamigenic potential qualitatively, and issues tsunami bulletins (Warning/Alert/Watch/All Clear) within 30 minutes to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) based on the proximity of the region to the earth quake location. These messages are followed up by an upgrade message or a cancellation message based on the water level information from BPR's and Tide Gauges with the timelines depending on the availability time of water level observations. The advisory messages from warning center are disseminated as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) by means of various communication modes such as dedicated telephone lines, fax, Virtual Private Network- Disaster Management Support (VPN-DMS) etc.

- (c) Total funds allocated for the Centre is Rs. 88.55 crores out of which Rs. 61.18 crores have been spent so far.
- (d) Does not arise.
