

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1366
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th July, 2009

EARTHQUAKE PRONE ZONE

1366. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- a) whether Geo Hayard International and the UN Centre for Regional Development has conducted a study in 21 cities in our country to locate earthquake prone zone;
- b) if so, the details thereof;
- c) whether this study report has revealed that Delhi and Mumbai are earthquake prone zone; and
- d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to overcome the situation that may arise in these metro cities in the event of earthquake of high intensity?

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 PARLIMENTARY AFFAIRS
(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

- a) The Government is not aware of any study conducted by the Geo-Hazards International and UN Centre for Regional Development for 21 cities of the country to locate earthquake prone zone.
- b) Does not arise.
- c) Does not arise.
- d) The Government of India has taken several steps aimed at earthquake hazard mapping including mitigation and management. A dedicated centre for Earthquake Risk Evaluation has been set-up as a separate wing of India Meteorological Department (IMD) which is mandated for collation and integration of existing data sets and to prepare the site-specific earthquake risk maps of high earthquake prone areas including metro cities. As per the seismic zoning map of India, published by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the country is divided into 4 seismic zones, zone V is most seismically active, while zone II is the least. The map is periodically updated on new findings and data inputs.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Building and Material Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) have also brought out various guidelines for construction of earthquake resistant design of structures to minimize losses caused due to earthquakes. Design and construction of structures/ dwellings as per these guidelines would ensure minimizing the damage to property and loss of lives in case of earthquakes.
